

Wabash Plain Dealer

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 5, 2019

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Pulse
of Wabash

Wabash Plain Dealer's new website now available

Check out our new website at www.wabashplaindealer.com and let us know what you think. Stories older than a few weeks are not yet available but will be soon. If you had an account on our previous site, you will need to create a new account. If you registered with the same email address we will be able to locate your previous subscription as well. Once registered, you can also verify your subscription. Please contact web support@wabashplaindealer.com with any questions. Thank you!

Wabash Plain Dealer's new office now open

The Wabash Plain Dealer's new office is now open on the second floor at 99 W. Canal St.

Manchester professor talks about how she is living her 'Wild and Precious Life'

Professor Heather Schilling, chair and director of teacher education at Manchester University, will speak about staying true to the University Mission Statement in "Living this one 'Wild and Precious Life'" at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5 in Cordier Auditorium.

Woman's Clubhouse plans evening Christmas dinner

Don't forget the Christmas evening dinner Thursday, Dec. 5. It is the annual holiday fundraiser with a very special dinner and entertainment. The house will be decorated in an angel theme this year. Contact Carol McDonald by phone at 260-563-2331 or Mary Delauter at 260-563-6613 for more information.

Wabash VFW fish fry set for Friday

A fish fry has been scheduled from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at the Wabash VFW Post 286, 1 Veterans Memorial Parkway South. The menu will include hand-battered fish, French fries, coleslaw and hush puppies. The cost is \$8 for all-you-can-eat dining. Carry-outs will be available. For more information,

See PULSE / Page A2

Inside

Classified, B6 Food, A5
Comics, B4 Viewpoint, A4
Crossword, B4 Weather, A2
Sports, B1



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Northfield athletic director resigns



CELEBRATION: Northfield Junior-Senior High School's then baseball head coach Clint Davis (foreground) is doused in water by, from left, Blake Harner, Jared Vigar, Jarret Shafer and Cole Rosen, after the Norse's regional title win last year.

FILE PHOTO

Clint Davis arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated with prior conviction

BY ROB BURGESS
and JACOB RUDE
news@wabashplaindealer.com

After four years in the role, Clint Davis, Northfield Junior-Senior High School athletic director, resigned from his position Monday. "Clint Davis resigned and the Metropolitan School District of Wabash County (MSD) School Board will act on the resignation at the School Board meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 10," stated Mike Keaffaber, MSD superintendent, Wednesday in response to a Plain Dealer request. "(MSD) wishes him the best in the future."

Davis has been with the MSD in his role as athletic director of Northfield Junior-Senior High School since August 2015. Late last month, Davis was arrested in Grant County on suspicion of operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction.

He was then released from the Grant County Jail on a \$1,205 bond.

Davis was previously arrested April 14, 2018 in Wells County on misde-

meanor charges of operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalent of 0.15 or more, and a first offense of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and endangering a person.

Davis was released April 19, 2018 on \$1,500 cash bond.

Davis pleaded guilty to the first charge Aug. 7, 2018, and his license was suspended for 90 days. The second count was simultaneously dismissed. Davis' subsequent probation was terminated Feb. 13.

Davis served as the baseball coach all four seasons at Northfield, leading the team to a 51-58 record in that span. Davis led the Norse to sectional and regional titles and a semi-state berth in 2018. The 2018 season did mark the only winning record for the Norse in those four years.

During Davis' tenure as athletic director, Northfield saw success across multiple sports. In 2015, the football program captured sectional and regional titles en route to a semi-state appearance.



PHOTO PROVIDED

RESIGN: After four years in the role, Clint Davis, Northfield Junior-Senior High School athletic director, resigned from his position on Monday.

The girls' basketball team advanced to the semi-state after winning the sectional and regional in 2018-19 to go along with the baseball

team's postseason success in 2018.

Davis did not return a Plain Dealer request for comment as of press time.

Downtown Wabash announces holiday hours

Several downtown businesses 'Open Late' throughout month

STAFF REPORT

To serve the community and out of town guests attending Ford Theater events, several downtown businesses will be extending their hours throughout December, according to a press release.

The "Open Late" campaign is a joint effort between Wabash Marketplace,

The Honeywell Foundation and downtown business owners.

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates:

■ Dec. 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Because Dec. 6 is a First Friday, the businesses will be open until 9 p.m.

"All are welcome to take advantage of the extended hours and enjoy the plethora of boutiques, craft beer and delicious cuisine," stated the release. "Shop participation may vary. If you have a specific errand, please confirm the business is participating in the extended hours. Make a purchase at participating businesses and receive a voucher for a free glass of beer or wine at Market Street Grill, valid that night. As an

added perk, a free self-serve gift wrap station is available at Chapman's Brewing Company. Complete all of your holiday shopping and gift wrapping in Downtown Wabash."

For more information regarding the Open Late campaign or to find out how you can become involved, visit <https://www.wabashmarketplace.org/downtown-district.html> or call 260-563-0975.

Purdue to study safety of electric skateboards, scooters

WEST LAFAYETTE — Purdue University plans to study the safety of electric skateboards and scooters in response to a rash of serious injuries on campus.

Purdue President Mitch Daniels said Monday the study would look at "the ex-

treme safety issues" posed by electric skateboards, scooters and other personal electric vehicles. He said one student recently suffered a near-fatal accident while using an electric skateboard.

Daniels says a task force

will propose new policies for electric vehicles and study whether those should also include traditional, human-powered skateboards and bicycles.

The Journal & Courier reports that the panel is expected to look at possible

speed limits, restrictions on hours of operation and helmet requirements.

Purdue says campus police have received more than a dozen reports of serious personal injury accidents since the school year started.

Wabash Marketplace looks back at 2019

New businesses, downtown additions, awards celebrated

BY ROB BURGESS
rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com

At their annual meeting last month, Wabash Marketplace looked back at their accomplishments in the Year in Review report.

In a statement to the Plain Dealer, Andrea Zwiebel, executive director, stated they also introduced incoming board members Doug Adams, Jan Roland, Nick Hentgen and Amanda Lopez.

Zwiebel stated they also awarded the inaugural Downtown Legacy Award to Stephen H. Downs.

"The award will be made in his honor on an annual basis. The criteria will be based on the impact of a person or organization on Downtown Wabash," stated Zwiebel.

Other highlights from the report include:

■ Over 14 new businesses including Wabash Woollen Works, Clarkson House, Downtown Nutrition, Custom Crafts, Hoosier Chiropractic, Birdie J's, Living Well Downtown, Yelle's Boutique, Lifequest Counseling, Brooch Boutique, Abstract Yoga Studio, Nick's Dog Cart, Uptown Virtual Reality and Head-2Head Games.

■ Facade Program: Final awards from \$1.3 million Stellar Project included the Bedford Building, Eagles Theatre, Pizza King and Reading Room Books.

■ Economic Vitality awarded the first professional development scholarship.

■ The Design Committee installed the Wings at Wabash Mural on Miami Street and received a Quick Impact Grant from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs for the art wraps project.

■ The organization led the charge on transitioning staff positions and the new office lease.

■ The Promotion Committee was "busy with many successful events." The re-vamp of the "Do It Downtown" campaign was released, including new merchandise. Another downtown campaign, "Open

See MARKETPLACE / Page A2

January Salamonie Senior Luncheon set Monthly program planned for Jan. 6, 2020

STAFF REPORT

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon on Monday, Jan. 6, 2020 at the Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, according to a press release.

Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend.

"Join us for an Indiana history movie after the meal," stated the release.

The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Potato soup will be provided. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. A \$1 donation will be accepted. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

MARKETPLACE

Continued from A1

Late,” launched in October. ■ The Farmers’ Market held its 13th season, including the first-ever Winter Market. ■ New additions to downtown by local partners included the Transit Route, Bison sculptures, Gateway Arch, Hometown Hero Banners, Friendship Hill, the first truck at the Wabash County Historical Museum, the Fitness Court and the StoryWalk.

Staff changes

Several Wabash Marketplace staff changes were also announced earlier this year, as mentioned in the report. Zwiebel was unanimously

approved at the September Board Meeting of Wabash Marketplace to succeed Steve Downs as executive director of the organization. She assumed her new role effective Tuesday, Oct. 1. Wabash Marketplace also welcomed two new part-time staff members this summer with the addition of Kryston Henderson as events specialist and Market Master, and Natalie Dilling as community coordinator.

‘Four Points’

The report also highlighted Main Street America’s “Transformation Strategies” which are “implemented through comprehensive work in four broad areas, known as the ‘Four Points.’”: ■ Economic vitality focuses on capital, incentives and other economic and finan-

cial tools to assist new and existing businesses, catalyze property development, and create a supportive environment for entrepreneurs and innovators that drive local economies. ■ Design supports a community’s transformation by enhancing the physical and visual assets that set the commercial district apart. ■ Promotion positions the downtown or commercial district as the center of the community and hub of economic activity while creating a positive image that showcases a community’s unique characteristics. ■ Organization involves creating a strong foundation for a sustainable revitalization effort, including cultivating partnerships, community involvement and resources for the district.

PULSE

Continued from A1

call 260-563-2463.

Ice skating, winter market, more available during First Friday

Organized by Wabash Marketplace, First Friday encourages the community to celebrate downtown with extended hours from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6. Ice skating will be available on Miami Street. To keep the holiday spirit going on Miami Street, Wabash Marketplace is offering an outdoor Winter Market from 5 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For more information visit www.wabashmarketplace.org, or call 260-563-0975.

Museum to host Family Fun Night

The Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St., will host a Family Fun Night from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6, featuring a visit from Santa Claus.

Downtown businesses to extend hours on select dates

Participating shops will be open until 7 p.m. on the following dates: Dec. 6, 7, 12, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

Lessons and Carols service set for Dec. 6

The Lessons and Carols worship service will take place at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. This service blends lessons of the season with traditional Christmas carols and hymns, featuring Manchester University Chamber Singers and Cantabile.

Honeywell House to host holiday floral arranging

Jennifer Love-George of Love Bug Floral will instruct guests on creating a seasonal arrangement at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 at 720 N. Wabash St. The cost is \$25 per person, which covers all materials. Sponsorship is provided by Crossroads Bank. Seating is limited, but reservations are encouraged and can be made at www.HoneywellHouse.org or by calling the Box Office at 260-563-1102.

Holiday Pops! concert set for Dec. 8

The Manchester Symphony Orchestra Holiday Pops! concert will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 in Cordier Auditorium. Tickets are \$15 general admission; free for MU students, faculty and staff, as well as all students age 18 and younger.

‘The Polar Express’ to be shown at the Honeywell Center

“The Polar Express” will

Visit us online at www.wabashplaindealer.com

be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 10 in the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

Christmas at the Museum Annual Banquet planned

On Wednesday, Dec. 11, the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St., will be hosting Christmas at the Museum Annual Banquet.

Paint Like Bob Ross at the NMPL

Two Paint Like Bob Ross class take place at the North Manchester Public Library (NMPL) in December. The first, “Seasons Greetings,” will take place from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 11. The second, another “Poinsettias” session, will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14. This class requires registration and a \$20 materials fee upon registering. Space is limited. Register at the front desk or call 260-982-4773.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 12

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12, at the Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester.

Charley Creek Gardens to host 10th Annual Yule Time Stroll

Charley Creek Gardens will host its 10th Annual Yule Time Stroll, open to the public from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 13 to Monday, Dec. 23 at 551 N. Miami St. This event is free and open to the public. Parking is available at 518 N. Wabash St.

LaFontaine Lions to host Santa Breakfast

The LaFontaine Lions will host a Santa Breakfast from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at the LaFontaine Community Building. The menu will include scrambled eggs, pancakes, sausage, sausage gravy, biscuit, juice, milk and coffee. Santa arrives at 9 a.m. There will be a free-will donation. Proceeds will go towards the LaFontaine United Methodist Church food pantry. Please bring in non-perishable foods. Donations of old glasses and keys will also be accepted.

‘White Christmas’ to be shown at the Honeywell Center

“White Christmas” will be shown at 7 p.m. Tuesday,

Dec. 17 in the Honeywell Center’s Ford Theater. The admission fee will be \$2 per person.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 17

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 17, at the First United Methodist Church, 110 N. Cass St.

Celebrate ‘The Wonders of Winter’ on Dec. 18

Preschool-age children and their adults are invited to Salamonie Preschool’s “The Wonders of Winter” from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 18 at Salamonie Interpretive Center in Lost Bridge West State Recreation Area, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews. The program fee is \$2 per child. Advance registration is appreciated. Register by calling Upper Wabash Interpretive Services at 260-468-2127. For more information on other UWIS programs, visit dnr.IN.gov/uwis or facebook.com/upperwabash.

DivorceCare presents ‘Surviving the Holidays’ series

The DivorceCare support group, which meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in Room 112 in the Wabash Friends Church, 3563 South State Road 13, will be offering a DVD series “Surviving the Holidays” through Tuesday, Dec. 17. Group leader and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658 or group leader Janet Quillen at 260-571-5235; email office@wabashfriends.org; or visit www.divorcecare.org.

Breakfast with Santa planned






On Saturday, Dec. 21, Santa will be coming to Breakfast with Santa and will have a special treat for children at the Wabash County Historical Museum, 36 E. Market St.

Red Cross blood donation opportunity set for Dec. 27

The Red Cross has scheduled a blood donation opportunity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27, at Parkview Wabash Hospital, 10 John Kissinger Drive.





Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to news@wabashplaindealer.com no later than five days before the event itself. Please use complete sentences, Associated Press style and Microsoft Word or PDF file formats.

5-Day Weather Summary

 Thursday Partly Cloudy 41 / 33	 Friday Partly Cloudy 37 / 25	 Saturday Sunny 38 / 30	 Sunday Chance Rain 46 / 36	 Monday Scattered Rain 45 / 30
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Sun and Moon

Today's sunset 5:20 p.m.
Tomorrow's sunrise 7:57 a.m.

 Full 12/12	 Last 12/18	 New 12/26	 First 1/2
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Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies, high of 41°, humidity of 69%. South southwest wind 2 to 7 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 33°. West southwest wind 8 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 28°. Friday, skies will be partly cloudy, high of 37°, humidity of 66%.

Mom wants to make sure identical twins are individuals

DEAR HARRIETTE: I have 10-year-old twin sons. Over the years, my husband and I have often given them the same gifts for holidays. We have done that in part because they are so similar. They are identical, and they spend most of their time together. This year, one of my twins took me aside and asked me to get him something very different from his brother. He further asked if I wouldn’t tell his brother because he didn’t want him to decide he wanted the same thing.

My boy is expressing his individuality, which is great. But now I’m wondering if I have been missing cues all along because they are identical. I know that they are two different people, but even I, as their mother, get forgetful because they are so similar. How can I be more attentive to both of my boys? – Twin Blues

Harriette Cole
Sense & Sensitivity



DEAR TWIN BLUES: Don’t beat yourself up. Instead, start having individual conversations with your boys on a regular basis, and listen carefully to what they say. Pay attention to learn their particular interests, likes and dislikes. Discover what makes each of them unique. As they grow up, they will continue to come into personal awareness of who they are and what makes them happy. Your job as their mother is to listen and respond accordingly.

You can start this season by getting the one twin what he has requested. You should also talk to the other twin to get a sense of his interests. Be careful, though, not to talk about what his brother has requested. Build an independent bond with him, and learn what he

has to share with you.

DEAR HARRIETTE: I noticed on social media that a college friend is very ill. I called her to check on her, and she was in the hospital. She sounded terrible and scared. I listened to her as long as she was able to talk before a doctor came in. I feel so bad for her, but I don’t know how to help. She lives several states away, and I simply cannot go to see her now. It is hard for her to talk on the phone because her breathing is compromised. How can I help her without causing her more pain? – Friend in Need

DEAR FRIEND IN NEED: You can text your friend to let her know you are thinking about her. Feel free to go old-school and send her a card, flowers or a plant.

Pay attention to her. Since she is using social media, you can write pleasant messages to her on her favorite site, encouraging her and offering your blessings. But for a more intimate engagement, write to her directly.

You can call her, but let her know that you will do the talking, since her speaking is compromised. You can share stories with her about your life. You can tell her things about mutual friends. You can ask her if she needs support. She can write down her needs or tell you in brief bits of communication.

Harriette Cole is a lifestyleist and founder of DREAMLEAPERS, an initiative to help people access and activate their dreams. You can send questions to askharriette@harriettecole.com or c/o Andrews McMeel Syndication, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106.



Wabash Plain Dealer

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Showtimes for Wednesday, November 27- Thursday, December 5

All showtimes have Closed Captioning available.

Knives Out (PG13) Wed (11/27): 12:50, 4:00, 6:45 Thurs: 4:00, 6:45, 9:40 Fri & Sat: 12:50, 4:00, 6:45, 9:40 Sun: 12:50, 4:00, 6:45 Mon- Thurs: 6:45	Frozen II in 2D (PG) Wed (11/27): 1:20, 6:55 Thurs: 6:55, 9:30 Fri & Sat: 1:20, 6:55, 9:30 Sun: 1:20, 6:55 Mon- Thurs: 6:55	Ford V Ferrari (PG13) Wed (11/27): 12:40, 3:55, 6:35 Thurs: 3:55, 6:35, 9:50 Fr & Sat: 12:40, 3:55, 6:35, 9:50 Sun: 12:40, 3:55, 6:35 Mon- Thurs: 6:35
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 A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood (PG) Wed (11/27): 1:05, 4:05, 7:15 Thurs: 4:05, 7:15, 10:00 Fri & Sat: 1:05, 4:05, 7:15, 10:00 Sun: 1:05, 4:05, 7:15 Mon- Thurs: 7:15 **Frozen II in RealD 3D (PG)** Wed (11/27) - Sun: 3:45 **Charlie's Angels (PG13)** Thurs: (11/28) - Sat: 9:25 | **Playing with Fire (PG)** Wed (11/27): 1:40, 4:25, 7:05 Thurs: 4:25, 7:05 Fri- Sun: 1:40, 4:25, 7:05 Mon-Thurs: 7:05 |

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Judge considers \$1.3M bonus for Purdue Pharma CEO

BY GEOFF MULVIHILL
Associated Press

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. — The judge overseeing the bankruptcy case of OxyContin maker Purdue Pharma will consider Wednesday whether the company’s CEO should get a bonus equal to half his \$2.6 million salary.

Attorneys general representing about half the states say the company’s chief executive Craig Landau shouldn’t get a bonus, arguing in court filings that he bears some responsibility for the national opioid epidemic that they say the company’s signature painkiller helped fuel.

“Purdue should not award bonus payments to Landau before resolving the allegations that Landau committed deadly, illegal misconduct,” the states said in a filing this week.

A hearing is scheduled Wednesday afternoon in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in White Plains, New York, where the company has sought protection from creditors as it tries to settle 2,700 lawsuits it faces over the toll of opioids.

Purdue said maintaining its bonus program is essential to keep employees on the job and performing. If the company falls apart, it would mean less money left over to address the opioid crisis for the states, local governments, Native American tribes, medical providers and others that have sued it.

The states that oppose Purdue’s settlement terms previously dropped their objections to bonuses for the company’s 683 other employees after it agreed to reduce some of them.

The company originally sought bonuses in 2020 worth an estimated \$46 million to reward employees for individual and company performance, staying with Purdue, or in 10 cases for signing previously negotiated deals. The company has cut its earlier bonus request by \$10 million.

Some incentive programs would pay workers an average of \$50,000 or more. The 62 hourly employees at Purdue’s generic subsidiary, Rhodes, stand to receive about \$5,000 each under one bonus program.

The company also says the bonuses could be needed for workers who make between \$100,000 and \$200,000 a year to hire lawyers amid the company’s legal battles.

Whether troubled companies should be allowed to pay bonuses to executives and other critical employees is a common topic debated during bankruptcy proceedings. In 2009, a judge ruled that Lehman Brothers, the investment bank, could pay 230 traders bonuses totaling \$50 million to keep working through that company’s bankruptcy. This year, a judge approved paying rank-and-file workers for Pacific Gas &

Electric Corp. \$235 million in bonuses but nixed millions in extra pay for top executives.

In Purdue’s case, the Stamford, Connecticut-based company says two dozen employees have resigned since it filed for bankruptcy in September and that replacements are hard to find.

“Purdue continues to be a difficult place to work, and retaining and motivating Employees continues to be a challenge,” chief financial officer Lon Lowne said in a court filing this week. “In recent weeks, Employees have received an unprecedented barrage of calls from recruiters.”

States are drawing the line at a big bonus for the CEO, even after the company cut Landau out of one bonus program and said it would cap his bonus in the other at half of what he had been in line to receive. Purdue also has said it would split Landau’s bonus into two installments rather than deliver it as a lump sum next year – and would reserve the right to take some of it back if he leaves before Sept. 1, 2020. Landau’s base salary is \$2.6 million.

Landau, a Purdue employee since 1999 who rose to the top job in 2017, is named as a defendant in lawsuits filed by Colorado, Massachusetts, five local governments and more than 100 hospitals.

In their lawsuits, the two states allege that Landau blamed the dangers of opioids

on patients rather than the drugs and that he knowingly put patients at risk by having his sales team encourage more prescribing of the drug without disclosing the addiction risks.

They say he pushed opioids for elderly patients and those who had never taken them before without disclosing their risks, falsely claimed that a version of OxyContin that was reformulated to make it harder for abusers to break down was safe, and pushed doctors to prescribe opioids for a longer period of time.

Purdue has denied the claims against it and Landau has asked courts to dismiss complaints against him. In a filing in Massachusetts, he said that he did not oversee opioid sales or marketing in two executive jobs he held before becoming CEO. And he said that after he became CEO, he did not have direct day-to-day sales or marketing efforts – and that he ordered his company to stop marketing opioids to prescribers entirely after about eight months on the job.

Linda Imes, a lawyer for Landau, declined to comment Wednesday.

It’s unclear whether bankruptcy Judge Robert Drain will make a determination on the bonuses or issue a decision later. He already has ruled that Purdue can make many payments to utilities, law firms and employees’ paychecks.

Google co-founders step aside as antitrust scrutiny heats up

BY RACHEL LERMAN
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Google’s co-founders are relinquishing their executive positions just as state and federal regulators, not to mention the Department of Justice and Congress, are taking a keen interest in possible abuse of its privacy practices and market power.

But their long foreshadowed successor, Sundar Pichai, has been well prepped to serve as the public face of the company in addition to his current role as chief executive.

Larry Page and Sergey Brin are stepping down as CEO and president, respectively, of Google parent company Alphabet. The move caps more than two decades during which the pair have shepherded the one-time startup they founded in a Silicon Valley garage.

Pichai, who has been Google’s CEO since 2015, will now also head up Alphabet. The company isn’t filling Brin’s position as president.

Google is facing increasing criticism and investigations from authorities in the U.S. and Europe about its privacy policies and nature of its many-legged business. That will now fall to Pichai to wrangle and push through – though Brin and Page, both 46, have noticeably backed out of the spotlight already.

Both stopped making appearances earlier this year at the regular question-and-answer sessions with employees, and Page didn’t attend this summer’s Alphabet shareholders meeting even though he was still in the CEO role.

Last year, Google raised hackles in Congress by refusing to send Page or Pichai to a hearing on Russian manipulation of internet services to sway U.S. elections. Congressional officials left an empty chair for Page at the witness table; top executives from Facebook and Twitter, meanwhile, turned up to testify. Offended lawmakers derided Google as “arrogant.”

Although longtime tech analyst Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies said he doesn’t believe Brin and Page are leaving “because the fire is getting hotter,” he said Pichai’s role at Google has been preparing him for the increased government scrutiny.

Pichai testified before Congress last December for the first time, defending the company against claims from Republicans that the search service is biased against conservatives.

Alphabet has been positioning Pichai as the de facto leader for quite some time. It has also made him the top executive voice at

shareholders meetings and on earnings call. Recently, Pichai changed the format of the employee question-and-answer sessions from a weekly occurrence to a monthly one.

Pichai, a 47-year-old immigrant from India, has worked at the company for 15 years, serving as a leader in projects to build Google’s Chrome browser and overseeing Android. Pichai, who has an engineering background, took over as the head of Google’s products before being promoted to CEO when Alphabet was created. He is known as a soft-spoken and respected manager.

Google has been facing pressure from privacy advocates over its collection and use of personal information to target advertising. It also faces allegations that it abuses its dominance in search and online advertising to push out rivals.

The company is the subject of antitrust inquiries from Congress, the Department of Justice, a group of U.S. state attorneys general and European authorities. The company has also faced harsh criticism about the material on its services. Its video streaming business, YouTube, was fined \$170 million to settle allegations it improperly collected personal data on children without their parents’ consent.

In its early days, Google focused on only one business – cataloging the growing internet. Page and Brin started Google soon after they met as Stanford University graduate students in 1995.

The company has now become one of the most influential companies in the world. Google dominates online search and digital advertising and makes the world’s most widely used operating system for smartphones, Android. It’s hard to make it through a whole day without using one of Google’s services – ranging from online tools to email, cloud computing systems, phones and smart speaker hardware.

Bajarin doesn’t expect much to change with the executive shuffle. And if anything does, he said, it will be due to government regulation.

Pichai assured employees in an internal email that his new job wouldn’t mean he was taking a step back from Google.

“I want to be clear that this transition won’t affect the Alphabet structure or the work we do day to day,” he wrote. “I will continue to be very focused on Google and the deep work we’re doing to push the boundaries of computing and build a more helpful Google for everyone.”

Deadly defect found in another version of Takata airbags

BY TOM KRISHER
AP Auto Writer

DETROIT — A new and distinct problem has been discovered in air bags made by the now bankrupt company Takata which has led to at least one death.

The recently discovered malfunction is different than the defect that led to at least 24 deaths and hundreds of injuries worldwide, though the result, like the earlier issue, leads to air bags that can explode and hurl shrapnel, killing or injuring people.

The company is adding about 1.4 million front driver inflators to recalls in the U.S., according to government documents posted Wednesday.

BMW is warning owners of some older 3-series cars to stop driving them.

A driver in Australia was killed by an airbag malfunction, while another Australian and a driver in Cyprus were injured, according to government documents.

Included in the recall Wednesday are more than 116,000 BMW 3-Series cars

from the 1999 to 2001 model years. About 8,000 definitely have faulty inflators and should be parked, BMW said. The rest can still be driven.

In addition, certain Audi, Honda, Toyota and Mitsubishi vehicles made from 1995 to 2000 also are being recalled, but information on which models was not available Wednesday.

Unlike previous recalls, the Takata non-azide inflators do not use volatile ammonium nitrate to fill the air bags in a crash. But the air bag propellant can still deteriorate over time when exposed to moisture and explode too fast, blowing apart the inflator body. They also might not fully inflate to protect people in a crash.

Takata says in government documents that it made about 4.5 million of the inflators worldwide but only a portion are still in use because the vehicles are so old. The faulty inflators have problems with insufficient seals.

Toyota and Honda said they’re still figuring out which models will have to be

recalled. U.S. safety regulators said they were told by Mitsubishi that the only U.S. vehicle affected is the 1998 through 2000 Montero. A company spokesman was seeking more information.

A message was left Wednesday for Audi, which is Volkswagen’s luxury brand.

In a prepared statement, the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it’s in discussions with the automakers about the recalls. It urged owners to search for recalls in the coming weeks by entering their vehicle identification number at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/recalls.

In the BMW recalls, the company is recommending that people stop driving certain 1999 323i and 328i sedans made from July of 1998 through January of 1999. Spokesman Oleg Satanovsky said those cars have inflators that were made at a Takata factory and are known to be faulty because they were manufactured before production improvements.

The company also is re-

calling another 34,000 323i and 328i sedans from 1999-2000 and 323Ci and 328Ci coupes from the 2000 model year. These cars were made from March of 1998 through March of 2000 and have inflators made at two Takata plants that could be defective. Satanovsky says these cars will be inspected and some could get new inflators.

A third group of cars, just over 74,000, also are being recalled. This group includes 323i, 325i, 328i, 330i sedans from the 1999 through 2001 model years. They were produced from May 1999 through July of 2000 and may have had air bag inflators replaced by defective ones. They also will be inspected.

BMW is still developing a remedy for the problem, but the company intends to replace faulty inflators with new ones. The company says owners will be notified when parts are available.

The recall is another in a long saga of problems with Takata inflators that sent the company into bankruptcy.

Global carbon pollution continues to rise, but more slowly

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON — The world continues to increase the amount of heat-trapping carbon dioxide it pumps into the air, but it’s not rising as fast as in the previous couple years.

Led by big jumps from China and India, the world is projected to spew 40.57 billion tons of carbon dioxide into the air in 2019. That’s up nearly 255 million tons from 2018, according to two scientific studies released Tuesday. The studies by Global Carbon Project, a group of international scientists who track emissions, show a 0.6 percent increase from last year.

In previous years, global

carbon dioxide emissions grew by 2.1 percent and 1.5 percent after a few years in the mid 2010s when global emissions barely rose, according to the studies in Environmental Research Letters. Carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and gas has caused 1.8 degrees of warming since pre-industrial times and world leaders are meeting in Madrid to try to limit warming to another 1.8 degrees from now.

“Emissions grew more slowly than last year but we still set a global record. It’s hard to be upbeat about that,” said study co-author Rob Jackson, a Stanford University climate scientist. “The U.S. National Academy of Sciences sounded the alarm

on carbon and climate 40 years ago. Since then, global carbon dioxide emissions have doubled, and the world is hurtling towards catastrophic climate change.”

The 2019 estimate is based on data through the first nine to ten months of the year, with a few national estimates based only on six months of data, said co-author Glen Peters, a climate scientist in Norway. Past projections have proven pretty accurate, he said.

That means every second this year people put 2.57 million pounds of carbon dioxide in Earth’s atmosphere. That’s the equivalent weight of two Airbus A380s, the world’s largest passenger airliner, going into the air every second.

Both the United States and the European Union saw emissions drop 1.7 percent from 2018 to 2019, but China saw a 2.6 percent increase and India had a 1.8 percent rise. China is by far the biggest carbon polluter, with 28 percent of the 2019 emissions. The United States is No. 2 at 14.5 percent.

“Generally, I think this is bad news. Not terrible news, but bad news,” said Cornell University climate scientist Natalie Mahowald, who wasn’t part of the report. “A stronger switch from coal to solar or wind needs to happen to reach low climate targets.”

Led by 10 percent drops in both the United States and Europe, carbon pollution

from coal dropped worldwide nearly 1 percent but increased 2.6 percent from cleaner natural gas, according to the studies. Coal still is the No. 1 source of man-made carbon pollution putting 16 billion tons of carbon dioxide in the air this year, followed by oil and then gas. Coal generally emits 76 percent more carbon dioxide than natural gas to produce the same amount of energy, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

“I don’t think we have completely seen the end of coal yet, but it is certainly in the death throes,” Peters said. “Though, I would imagine a slow and protracted decline of coal because of the young infrastructure in Asia.”

But with coal dropping or even just plateauing, it is now apparent that the world is not quite on the worst-case scenario carbon emissions path of the four charted by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Peters said. But the next two highest emission scenarios, which the world is closer to, are not “pleasant worlds to live in,” he said.

Princeton University climate scientist Michael Oppenheimer, who wasn’t part of the study, called the numbers grim: “Stepping back and looking at 30 years of data, there is nothing at all that reveals any reason to be optimistic that the world is about to turn the corner on reducing carbon dioxide emissions.”

speak up

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Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

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inspiration corner

Daily scripture

And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Mark 11:25

Fix the unfair trade-war farm bailouts

Washington is one of America's most trade-reliant states, so President Donald Trump's ongoing trade negotiations have brought broad economic uncertainty. With agriculture the second-biggest sector of the state's export market, it initially appeared the announcement of \$16 billion in farm bailouts meant much-needed stability for farmers caught in the trade-war crossfire.

Instead, Washington crop growers have been given short shrift by the United States Department of Agriculture. A minority report of the U.S. Senate's Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee in November showed that in the first round of trade-crisis relief payments, farmers in some Southern states have already received more than \$50 per acre on average while Washington farmers were sent less than \$10 an acre.

Additionally, the USDA calculated outsize trade damage costs for certain crops grown widely in the South — such as cotton and sorghum — compared to corn and soybeans, which are grown and exported here. Cotton and sorghum have not suffered from the trade war more than other crops. According to the Senate study, prices for both crops have risen.

On Nov. 12, Washington Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell joined other Democratic senators in

signing a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue decrying that this iniquity "is picking winners and losers among farms and regions." Weeks later, Perdue has yet to respond. Federal agencies cannot keep ignoring Washington's needs while pursuing trade policies that worsen the pain.

The USDA's own data shows this imbalance starkly. The agency sets farmers' bailout payment eligibility using a county-by-county calculation. Every Washington county's farmers will be eligible for \$32 an acre or less when all the payments come in. Farmers in 15 counties scattered across the state get the minimum of \$15 per acre.

Every Alabama county got a total rate of \$33 to \$150 an acre. Nationally, 184 of the 193 farm counties — 95 percent — that will get \$100 or more per acre are in Southern states.

Farmers in Georgia, where Perdue was previously governor, have already collected \$50 per acre, the highest rate in the nation, and will collect more in two more scheduled rounds of bailout payments.

This unprecedented farm bailout must be more fairly handled for farmers from the Pacific Northwest to the Midwest Heartland states.

Farmers would much rather have a repaired trade policy than federal

subsidies, said Dan Wood, executive director of the Washington Dairy Federation. But the quick infusion of federal dollars promises to help them through what is hopefully short-term hardship, Wood said.

With farmers currently signing up for the second round of payments, the USDA must immediately move to repair its unfair regional bias before the money is exhausted. Additional fixes are needed to this new program as well. As the Democratic senators wrote in their letter to Perdue, the program does not prioritize small farms over international conglomerates, even though small operators are most vulnerable to the market volatility of the tariff dispute.

The senators' letter expressed fear that this aspect "will lead to further consolidation of family-owned farms and wipe out the next generation of farmers."

A federal bailout program is unsustainable as long-term policy, but done properly it can ensure survival for businesses caught in temporary tumult. In this case, President Trump's policies are both the cause and the inadequate balm for this crunch. To be nationally effective, the bailout must be handled with fairness.

This editorial was first published in The Seattle Times.



The bad-faith impeachment

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi says Democrats are trying to remove President Trump from office "prayerfully," "sadly" and "with a heavy heart." In fact, as anyone who has been watching knows, many Democrats have been itching to impeach Trump since the day he took office.

The fact that they have long wanted to impeach the president suggests those Democrats view the Trump-Ukraine matter as just the latest, and perhaps the best, chance to get the president. And that calls into question their good faith in claiming that, despite deep reluctance, they must impeach now — right this minute — because it is their solemn constitutional duty.

From its earliest days, the Democratic quest to remove Trump has resembled the Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote. Democrats in hot pursuit of the elusive Trump proposed to remove him for virtually any sin that came to mind, only to see their efforts foiled.

One early Democratic article of impeachment would have removed the president for "sowing discord among the people of the United States" with controversial comments on Charlottesville, transgender troops and Muslim immigration. Another Democratic attempt suggested removing Trump for attacking NFL players who did not stand for the national anthem. Then there was a proposal to remove him for tweeting about federal judges.

Others sought to impeach Trump for allegedly violating the Constitution's "emoluments clause." Finally, of course, many Democrats hoped to remove the president over the Trump-Russia affair.

Anticipation built for years, reaching a peak several months ago, just before the release of the Mueller

report. And then, disappointment.

The core of the Democratic case against Trump was the allegation that Russia and the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated to fix the 2016 election. Many Democrats believed deeply that Trump was guilty, and sometimes fevered speculation filled countless hours on cable TV. But Robert Mueller could not even establish that conspiracy or coordination even happened, much less that Trump was guilty.

Some Democrats still hoped to impeach Trump for allegedly obstructing justice. Mueller's report strongly suggested that Trump had committed obstruction, yet — in a move that angered Democrats — declined to reach a conclusion on the charge. Then, in July, Mueller made an underwhelming appearance on Capitol Hill. The air quickly seeped out of the impeachment balloon.

Then — voila! — up popped the Ukraine affair. Democrats saw a final opportunity to impeach Trump. They immediately began cutting corners to make it happen as quickly as possible.

First, Pelosi and her chosen impeachment czar, Rep. Adam Schiff, chose to skip the investigative stage that preceded earlier impeachments. The cases of both Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton involved extensive inquiries by special prosecutors who served as fact-finders. The same was true of the Mueller investigation.

But Mueller did not give Democrats what they wanted. Plus, he took two years to do it. Instead of calling for a special counsel investigation, Pelosi and Schiff decided to handle the investigating themselves, greatly increasing the chances they would reach the result they wanted.

Pelosi and Schiff also decided not to pursue the testimony of some key witnesses. They did not even subpoena former National Security Adviser John Bolton, perhaps the most important witness of all. Had the House issued a subpoena, Bolton would

have a solid case that his conversations with the president were privileged. The issue would have been settled by a court.

Pelosi and Schiff passed. Either they were afraid they would lose in court or that if they won, Bolton would not give them the testimony they wanted, or they were in too much of a hurry to let a court case proceed. In any event, there was no push for Bolton's testimony.

Instead, Pelosi and Schiff rushed ahead. Democrats on the House Intelligence Committee took just days to produce a report based on their brief investigation and then gave members 24 hours to read and assess it. Then it was on to the Judiciary Committee, the normal place to begin an impeachment investigation, for the drafting of quickie articles of impeachment.

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking. Voting in the Democratic presidential nomination race begins with the Iowa caucuses Feb. 3. The New Hampshire primary will be eight days later.

If Pelosi and Schiff can pass impeachment articles by Christmas, they can send the matter to the Senate for trial in January. Even on that accelerated schedule, the trial will probably overlap, at least a little, with voting. But if the House can't get impeachment done by the holidays, the matter will certainly drag on through the primaries. So the race is on.

To summarize: Many Democrats wanted to impeach Trump from the get-go. Frustrated at their inability to get it done, they jumped on their last, best hope, taking shortcuts to ensure their preferred result and racing to beat the political deadline imposed by their party's presidential contest. Through it all, they have insisted they are acting only with great reluctance and sorrow.

The question now is whether the public will believe it.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

Obama's health care promise was a lie. Democrats are at it again.

In 2009, President Barack Obama promised that under Obamacare, "If you like your health care plan, you'll be able

Marc A. Thiessen



to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what." Millions of Americans believed him, and millions of Americans lost their health care plans. Obama's promise was a lie and his administration knew it. As Obamacare architect Jonathan Gruber later explained, "the stupidity of the American voter ... was really, really critical for the thing to pass."

Well, apparently some Democrats still think you are stupid. Because a decade later, they are at it again.

In the Democratic presidential primary, there is a major fight raging over health care among the four leading contenders. On one side are Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., who support a single-payer "Medicare for All" plan. Unlike Obama, Sanders is refreshingly honest, admitting to voters that under his proposal they can't keep their health plans; Medicare for All will abolish most private insurance and replace it with mandatory government health care. Americans appreciate his candor, but they don't like his plan: A Quinnipiac poll shows that support for Medicare for All has plummeted from 51 percent in 2017 to just 36 percent today.

Sensing vulnerability, former Vice President Joe Biden and South Bend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg have gone on the offensive. Their line of attack? Sanders and Warren are infringing on people's freedom to choose.

Biden and Buttigieg are pushing instead for a public option — what Buttigieg calls "Medicare for All Who Want It." They promise that we can have it both ways: The government can offer people the option of signing up for Medicare-like government coverage, but also protect the 160 million Americans — many of them union workers — who like their employer-provided insurance.

In other words: If you like your health care plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan.

Biden's case for the public option uses almost the very same words that Obama used when he lied to the American people a decade earlier: "If you like your employer-based plan, you can keep it. If in fact you have private insurance, you can keep it," he says. In a new ad, Buttigieg also channels his inner Obama, declaring "If you prefer a public plan like Medicare, like I think most Americans will, you can choose it. But if you prefer to keep your private insurance, you can."

Just like Obama's false promise 10 years ago, the Biden-Buttigieg promise that you can keep your plan is a lie. As Seema Verma, head of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, has explained, "the public option is a Trojan horse with single-payer hiding inside." Verma points out that private insurance pays hospitals 75 percent more than Medicare for the same services. In 2017, for example, Medicare underpaid hospitals by \$54 billion. They make up the lost revenue by charging private insurers more — which means private plans are essentially subsidizing Medicare for seniors.

But if tens of millions of Americans under 65 sign up for a public option, the population requiring subsidies will expand dramatically, while the source of private revenue will dry up. To stay afloat, doctors and hospitals will have to charge even higher prices to private insurers, which in turn will force insurers to raise prices and reduce services — making it harder for them to compete with the government for customers. A death spiral for private insurance will ensue. The higher private insurance premiums go, the more people will be pushed into the public option — until eventually the private option all but disappears.

In other words, the end result of Medicare for All and "Medicare for All Who Want It" is exactly the same: the elimination of private insurance. It's only a question of whether it is eliminated instantly or dies a slow, painful death. Honest people on the left admit this. The New Republic's Libby Watson recently pointed out that Biden and Buttigieg are pushing "the big lie that by creating a public option, we can maintain private insurance" and asked "if the goal is to slowly smother private insurance, why promise that people can keep their plans that they like — plans that you intend to ultimately kill?" Good question. The answer is: Because if they are honest, the American people will reject their plan.

So, when you hear Democrats promising you can keep your health plan, they are lying — just like Obama was 10 years ago. As the saying goes, fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me. If you buy the same lie a second time, you have no one to blame but yourself.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen on Twitter, @marcthiessen.

'Tis the season for spirits – in your food as well as your glass

BY LYNDA BALSLEV
In this window of time between Thanksgiving turkey and Christmas excess, take a break from fancy feasts and indulge in a robust and rustic one-pot meal. This wine- and brandy-laced stew is guaranteed to warm you in the cold weather. After all, while libations are certainly for sipping, don't overlook their power to enhance flavor in food, such as this pork and prune stew fortified with Armagnac. If this recipe doesn't warm you, I'm not sure what will.
Armagnac is a brandy produced in the southwestern region of France. Like cognac, Armagnac is derived from grapes – but the difference veers subtly from there. While cognac is twice distilled, yielding a smoother pour, Armagnac is distilled only once, which lends more nuance, character and complexity to its flavor. And while this certainly makes for intriguing and wonderful sipping, it also adds delightful complexity to soups, stews, sauces, even desserts.
In this recipe, Armagnac teams up with luscious prunes and pork to create a rich and homey stew perfumed with juniper and rosemary. Just remember to pour yourself a splash to enjoy while you are preparing the meal.

Pork Stew With Prunes and Armagnac
Active Time: 30 minutes
Total Time: 3 to 3½ hours, plus steeping time
Yield: Serves 6

- 20 prunes, pitted
- 1/2 cup Armagnac brandy
- 3 pounds pork shoulder, excess fat trimmed, meat cut into 1 1/2-inch chunks
- Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 ounces bacon, coarsely chopped
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 3 medium shallots, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, chopped
- 1 bottle full-bodied red wine
- 1 cup demi-glace or high-quality beef stock



PROVIDED PHOTO BY LYNDA BALSLEV FOR TASTEFOOD

STEW: In this recipe, Armagnac teams up with luscious prunes and pork to create a rich and homey stew perfumed with juniper and rosemary.

1 bouquet garni: 4 juniper berries, 3 rosemary sprigs, 2 thyme sprigs and 2 bay leaves wrapped in cheesecloth and tied with a kitchen string
Combine the prunes and Armagnac in a bowl and let stand at least 1 hour.
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees.
Season the pork on all sides with salt and pepper. Heat the olive oil over medium-high heat in a Dutch oven or oven-proof pot with a lid. Add the pork in batches, without overcrowding, and brown on all sides. Transfer to a bowl

and repeat with the remaining pork.
Pour off all but 1 tablespoon pork fat from the pan. Add the bacon and saute until its fat renders. Add the carrots and shallots and saute until the shallots soften and the carrots are crisp-tender, 4 to 5 minutes. Add the garlic and saute until fragrant, about 1 minute.
Return the pork and any accumulated juices to the pan. Add the prunes and Armagnac, the wine, beef stock, bouquet garni, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon black

pepper. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover the pan, transfer to the oven, and cook until the meat is very tender, 2 1/2 to 3 hours, stirring once every hour or so.
Remove the stew from the oven, discard the bouquet garni, and taste for seasoning. Serve with mashed potatoes, polenta or crusty bread.
(The stew may be prepared up to two days in advance. Warm over low heat or in a 300-degree oven before serving.)

Learn the secrets to a perfect dinner party from Questlove

BY MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer
NEW YORK — If you're lucky enough to be invited to a dinner party hosted by Questlove, be aware that nothing has been left to chance.
The guest list has been carefully chosen, as have all the dishes. The music starts off with piano-heavy tunes and then builds as the evening goes on. The amount and quality of the booze is also carefully staged.
"I think now I have it down to a science. You have to start off mellow and go to your climax," said Questlove. "Usually my parties start at 7 o'clock. By 10 o'clock, it's at its height. And then when it's filtering out around 12:30, then usually the 10 of us left go out to get pizzas and burgers."
If you're one of the stragglers, there's a good chance you'll be hanging with a celebrity. Questlove attracts an eclectic fanbase, from musicians like Q-Tip and David Byrne, to foodies like Padma Lakshmi and Eric Ripert, to actresses like Gabrielle Union and Zooey Deschanel, and artists like Tom Sachs and Dustin Yellin.
Now the drummer of the hip-hop group The Roots, as well as a DJ, a producer, author and radio host is revealing some of his secrets in his new book, "Mixtape Potluck." It includes crowd-pleasing recipes from more than 50 friends and advice on how to organize the music, food and guests.
"For me, the whole goal of 'Mixtape Potluck' is to serve as a guide to have better social functions. Oftentimes, I meet artists that are islands on their own and I tell them all the time, 'Find your flock, gather your flock,'" he said. "We live in such a singular society now that really doesn't encourage the idea of collaborating or even social gatherings anymore."
The hope is that the party's guests will mingle and learn about each other, sparking partnerships and alliances. He likens it to high-level speed dating.
"For me, the result is when people the next day say, 'Hey. I exchanged numbers with this particular artist or this particular singer, this particular writer or this particular architect, and now we're going to work and collaborate together,'" he said.
Included in the book is Marisa Tomei's grandmother's recipe for charred red peppers, Carla Hall's pimiento cheese dip, Jessica Biel's blueberry cake and Carol Lim's Korean fried chicken. A mac and cheese from Q-Tip contains no less than five cheeses. "In most black households, if it's less than five cheeses, it's not legit," Questlove jokes.
Questlove, born Ahmir Thompson, said the seed of the book sprouted more than 20 years ago when The Roots were trying to lure musicians to collaborate in Philadelphia. The best bribe turned out to be food, "the proverbial pie on the windowsill that drew everyone in." They even convinced their record label to add a chef to the budget.
"For me, music and food and creatives go hand-in-hand. So, some 20 plus years, later, I just now call them food salons. And instead of using food to attract musicians to create music, I'm kind of doing the opposite where music is now in the background."
To inspire his "Mixtape Potluck" celebrities on picking out their recipes, Questlove sent along a song that he felt best captured their unique creative energy. Martha Stewart got a Snoop Dogg tune, while vegetarian Natalie Portman got "Vegetables" by The Beach Boys.

Vegan date, walnut and dark chocolate cookies

BY SHARON PALMER
This recipe borrows the natural sweetness of Medjool dates, along with the rich flavors of walnuts and dark chocolate, to craft a delicious, healthy version of this classic cookie. Enjoy this sweet treat with your loved ones during the holiday season, pack them into a lunch box any day, or serve them with fresh fruit or sorbet the next time you host dinner guests.

- Ingredients**
- 1/2 cup soft dairy-free margarine spread, at room temperature
 - 1 tsp. vanilla extract
 - 2 Tbsp. honey
 - 1 cup white whole wheat flour
 - 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 - 1-1/2 tsp. egg replacer**
 - 1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts

- 1/2 cup diced, pitted Medjool dates
 - 1/2 cup dark chocolate chips or broken dark chocolate pieces
- Makes 20 cookies.
Per Cookie: 122 calories, 6 g total fat (1 g. saturated fat), 16 g carbohydrate, 2 g protein, 2 g dietary fiber, 82 mg sodium.
Prep Time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 15 minutes

Directions
Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.
Mix together margarine, vanilla, and honey in a small bowl.
Combine the whole-wheat flour, all-purpose flour, baking soda, and egg replacer in a separate bowl.
Add the flour mixture to the margarine mixture and

mix well to form a crumbly dough.
Stir in the walnuts, dates, and chocolate chips.
Shape the dough into walnut-sized balls and place about 3 inches apart on a baking sheet.
Bake for 15 minutes, or until golden brown.
*Note: These cookies store very well in an airtight container in the freezer.
**Note: Vegan egg replacers can be found in powdered form. Examples include Ener-G, VeganEgg, Bob's Red Mill Egg Replacer. You can substitute 1 whole egg if not using egg replacers.
Sharon Palmer, RDN, The Plant-Powered Dietitian, is an award-winning food and nutrition expert, journalist, and editor.



PHOTO PROVIDED

HEALTHY: This recipe borrows the natural sweetness of Medjool dates, along with the rich flavors of walnuts and dark chocolate, to craft a delicious, healthy version of this classic cookie.

Cavill: Door 'hasn't closed' on Superman, but 1st, 'Witcher'

BY RYAN PEARSON
AP Entertainment Writer
WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Henry Cavill is all-in on his Netflix fantasy series "The Witcher," but he says the "door hasn't closed" on a return as Superman in the DC cinematic universe.
Cavill last played the superhero in 2017's "Justice League" and it's unclear whether any upcoming movies will feature the character.
Cavill dons a long white wig to play monster hunter Geralt of Rivia in "The Witcher," an ambitious eight-episode adaptation of Polish author Andrzej Sapkowski's books. With intense magic,

scheming political factions and epic battles, it's targeting the audiences that made "Game of Thrones" a worldwide phenomenon.
"I live in the fantasy genre anyway, that's my hobby. And so for me, it was always – it was always obvious. It was like yes, of course, these shows can be popular," Cavill said. "It was always a target. I always wanted to bring things like this to the screen in one way, shape or form."
The show premieres on Netflix on Dec. 20, and production begins early next year on a second season.
The series features Cavill's Geralt engaging in intricate-

ly choreographed swordplay, relaxing in a bath and talking to his horse – all recognizable moments for fans of the acclaimed hit 2015 role-playing game "The Witcher 3." Cavill says his horse chats recalled his real-life dialogue with his American Akita dog Kal, who shows up regularly on his Instagram feed.
"That's exactly what I was channeling when I was interacting with Roach (the horse), it was 100 percent the relationship Kal and I have," he said. "Geralt may be a little harder. Generally, he's been living in a harsher world and hated by a lot of people for longer than I have."

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Area Calendar

Wrestling - Northfield vs. Oak Hill, 6:30 p.m.; Wabash vs. Rochester, 6:30 p.m.
Swimming - Manches-ter at Maconaquah, 5:30 p.m.; Wabash at Tippecano Valley, 5:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Christian knocked off by New Heights

The Emmanuel Christian basketball team fell to New Heights of Fort Wayne on Tuesday, falling 65-40. Preston Ritzema finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds, Jack Niccum had 14 points and 14 rebounds and Ja-pheth Niccum had seven points.

Carrasco, Donaldson win MLB Comeback Player of Year awards

NEW YORK (AP) — Cleveland Indians pitcher Carlos Carrasco and Atlanta Braves third baseman Josh Donaldson have won the Comeback Player of the Year awards.
Major League Baseball made the announcement on Wednesday.
Carrasco won the American League award. He was diagnosed with chronic myeloid leukemia in early June, missed three months while undergoing treatment and returned to the Indian in a relief role in September.
In October, the 32-year-old right-hander from Venezuela won the Roberto Clemente Award presented for the character he's shown on and off the field.
Donaldson won the National League honor. He played only 52 games for Toronto and Cleveland in 2018 because of injuries, but bounced back for a big year with the Braves.
The 2015 AL MVP hit 37 home runs and had 94 RBIs for the NL East champions. Donaldson became the second straight Braves player to win the NL come-back award after pitcher Jonny Venters last year.
The awards were chosen by the 30 team beat writers for MLB.com.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



DRIVE: Northfield's Addi Baker (left) dribbles upcourt while fending off Maconaquah's Lilly Maple (right) during the second half of Tuesday's contest.

Norse start fast, finish fast to down Braves

BY JACOB RUDE
sports@wabashplaindealer.com
Northfield head coach Melissa Allen noted the strides her side made after Tuesday's 53-40 win at home over Maconaquah. The path her side has taken in making those strides, though, has been anything but simple.
Injuries have plagued the Norse from even before the first game of the year. Northfield looked to be nearing full health, or as full as they can realistically expect this season, with the return of Emily Pennington to the rotation. That lasted just 35 seconds on the night as Fayth Leming rolled her ankle inside the first minute on Tuesday.
But Northfield hardly wavered save for a brief stretch in the middle stages of the night before finishing off the game with a 27-11 run over the final 12:58.
"I thought we made big strides," Allen said. "We're improving on those things that need fixed and the girls are working hard. The first quarter, we came out strong and were full of energy. The second quarter, I think we got tired fast. I think practices are going to be a little bit harder from now on to make sure we're in better shape. The third quarter started out slow. I got on them a little bit and we started playing again."
Northfield never trailed in the first half but also never held a lead larger than five points, that advantage coming after a back-and-forth series that featured makes from Kenzie Baer and Kearston Stout for the Norse that helped the lead bounce between three and five points.
Consecutive scores from Lilly Maple to end the half, though, closed the lead to 26-25 and Maconaquah took its first lead in the third after scores from Monica Moore and Alex Merritt gave the hosts a 29-26 advantage.
"We held our own," Braves head coach PJ Hatcher said. "It was just Northfield did a great job battling a little longer than we were able to."
That battle was on display in the ensuing 3:54 as Northfield scored 13 unanswered points. Emma Hoover started the run with a basket before Addi Baker converted at the rim and knocked down a three-pointer. Baer and Hoover capped off the run, the latter scoring the final four points of the spurt to turn a three-point deficit into a 39-29

lead.
After just two points in the first half, Hoover scored 10 in the second half, including six points in the 13-0 run. Allen, though, was more impressed with her work on the other end of the court.
"She played great tonight," Allen said. "Defensively, she was all over them. She worked her butt off on the defensive end. Offense, though, she let it come to her. There have been a couple of games where she's trying to force it and trying to get things there that weren't there. Tonight, she let the game come to her. She knew when to drive, she knew when to dish."
The Braves would never be able to make it a contest as the two sides traded buckets the majority of the fourth period as the lead alternated between nine and 13 points until the final whistle.
"The girls are putting in the right kind of work," Hatcher said. "We're just trying to figure out how to get to that next level and be successful. We shot pretty well tonight. Northfield shot better. It was just that back-and-forth game, that push-pull...they just won a few more of those battles."

"Both teams have a lot of grit. Both teams are tenacious. It was just that they got a few more of those."
Maple had a team-high 10 points for Maconaquah while Moore had nine and McKenna Wilson eight.
For Northfield, Baker had a game-high 15 points to go with 10 rebounds while Hoover and Stout had 12 points apiece. Equally as valuable, though, was Pennington's six points in her return.
"The big girls have a sub now," Allen said of having Pennington back in the rotation. "At first, they weren't getting many breaks. They'd look over at me and I'm like 'Sorry, I don't have anyone to put in for you.' She's adding points and adding rebounds and that's exactly what we needed."
Northfield improves to 4-3 with the win, the first time the Norse have won back-to-back games and the first time they have been over .500 on the year. The Norse are also 2-0 in conference play with the win and will travel to Manchester on Saturday.
Maconaquah dips to 2-3 overall and 2-2 in the conference. The Braves travel to Eastern on Saturday.

team event in New Orleans each of the last three years. Woodland played with Xander Schaufele, while Bryson DeChambeau was paired with Webb Simpson and Rickie Fowler played with Tony Finau.
Matt Kuchar had a successful partnership with Dustin Johnson in two Ryder Cups. Johnson is not in the Bahamas, withdrawing last week to give his left knee one more week to get ready for the matches. Kuchar instead played with Chez Reavie, who replaced Johnson in the Bahamas.
Woods didn't reveal any

GOLF

Woodland, Reed share lead at World Challenge

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer
NASSAU, Bahamas — As a player, Tiger Woods wasn't all that happy with his game Wednesday in the Hero World Challenge. As the Presidents Cup captain, he had reason to be pleased.
U.S. Open champion Gary Woodland and Patrick Reed, who will be part of the U.S. team next week at Royal Melbourne, each managed a tough wind in the Bahamas to post a 6-under 66 and share the lead after the opening round of a tournament that felt more like a Presidents Cup tune-up.

Woods used two of his four captain's picks on Woodland and Reed.
He used another on himself, and showed plenty of rust in his first tournament since Woods won the Zozo Championship in Japan the last week of October.
Woods made sloppy bogeys on both par 5s on the front nine. He hit his stride on the back nine with a five-hole stretch he played in 5-under par, chipping in for eagle on the par-5 15th. That put him within three of the lead right up until he chopped his way to a bogey-double bogey finish for a 72.

"It was not a very good start," Woods said. "Didn't play the par 5s well early and then got it going on the back nine a little bit. Got myself right there in the mix and then bad shots on 17, 18."
Woods has 11 of his 12 players for the Presidents Cup at his holiday exhibition, and it was clear what kind of pairings he had in mind for the matches that start Dec. 12 at Royal Melbourne.
He played with Justin Thomas, who had a 69. Reed played with Patrick Cantlay, his partner in the

insight into his plans for next week, only that he wants open communication.
"I want to have all the players comfortable with who they're playing with," Woods said. "That's why we're communicating the way we are, so every guy has an understanding of when they're playing, what format they're playing, who they're playing with, the different options that could happen based on conditions, based on people's form."
"Got to have all those different contingencies ready

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Green leads Hoosiers past No. 17 Florida St.

BY MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer
BLOOMINGTON — Indiana guard Devonte Green felt great shooting the ball Tuesday night.
He made sure everyone knew it, too.
The senior scored a career-high 30 points, knocked down five 3-pointers and helped fuel a late spurt with two big shots to lead the undefeated Hoosiers past No. 17 Florida State 80-64 in the ACC/Big Ten Challenge.
"It's something you just feel, I can't explain it," Green said. "Shots were dropping tonight, so I guess I had the hot hand."
There was no guesswork about it.
Green went 10 of 15 from the field, 5 of 7 on 3s and 5 for 7 at the free throw line. He also grabbed six rebounds and finished with three assists and two steals — not bad for someone who missed Indiana's first three games with an injured hamstring.
With Green back, the Hoosiers (8-0) are off to their best start since 2012-13. They earned their third straight win over a ranked team dating to last season and head into Big Ten play with a boost of confidence.
It wasn't just Green, either. Freshman forward Trayce Jackson-Davis had 15 points and eight rebounds, while junior Justin Smith chipped in with 14 points and five boards.
Trent Forrest scored 13 to lead the Seminoles (7-2), who had their seven-game winning streak snapped. M.J. Walker and Devin Vassell added 10 points apiece.
Clearly, though, the difference was Green.
"He had one of those nights," Florida State coach Leonard Hamilton said. "Tonight was his night."
After Indiana took a 15-point lead in the first half, the Hoosiers watched Florida State methodically cut into the deficit.
When the Seminoles opened the second half with three successive 3s in less than two minutes, Indiana's lead was down to 47-41.
Green helped steady the Hoosiers, who extended the margin to 10 with 13:53 left. But when Anthony Polite made a 3 with 10:23 left, the Seminoles trailed 53-50.
That's when Green helped spur the decisive sequence. Jackson-Davis and Smith each hit three of four free throws, Green scored on a nifty layup and hit a contested 17-footer, and Damezi Anderson closed out the 13-2 run with a 3 from the corner to give Indiana a

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Searching for upsets to scramble playoff

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

Championship weekend rarely produces the type of upsets that throw the national championship race into turmoil.

Heading into this year's slate of conference title games, a case could be made that No. 1 LSU (No. 2 CFP), No. 2 Ohio State (No. 1 CFP) and No. 3 Clemson (No. 3 CFP) have all done enough already to get into the College Football Playoff even if they lose this weekend.

That's no fun.

We remember major upsets such as Kansas State over Oklahoma in the Big 12 in 2003, LSU knocking Tennessee out of a chance to play for a BCS title in the 2001 SEC title game and Michigan State's victory against Ohio State in the 2013 Big Ten championship that cost the Buckeyes a BCS title game appearance.

Memorable, but infrequent. Championship weekend is typically chalky.

In four of the five seasons of the playoff, a team ranked in the top four heading into championship weekend did not reach the playoff, but usually it has not been because of an upset.

Last year, Georgia was in the same position it is in this year: No. 4 going into the SEC title game as an underdog (Alabama last year, LSU this year). The Bulldogs put up a good fight against the Tide, but lost and got the boot for Oklahoma.

In 2017, Wisconsin was undefeated and fourth heading into the Big Ten championship game, where it lost to Ohio State, which had lost twice but was a 6 1/2-point favorite over the Badgers. That opened the door for Alabama to get the fourth spot without winning its conference.

In 2016, championship

weekend only changed the order of the top four slightly, not the teams.

In 2015, Iowa was unbeaten and fourth but lost to Michigan State, which was fifth, in the Big Ten title game. The Spartans moved up and into the playoff.

The biggest swing game on championship weekend came in the first year of the playoff. Ohio State, a 4-point underdog after quarterback J.T. Barrett was injured against Michigan, beat Wisconsin 59-0 in the Big Ten championship game in 2014. The committee jumped the Buckeyes from fifth to fourth, snubbing co-Big 12 champions TCU and Baylor, which were both 11-1. TCU was dropped from third to sixth and Horned Frogs fans have still not gotten over it.

Will an upset toss the committee a curve this year?

The picks:

FRIDAY

No. 5 Utah (minus 6½) vs. No. 13 Oregon, Pac-12 championship

Utes have not defeated a ranked team yet; It would probably help if they not only win, but do so comfortably ... UTAH 28-17.

SATURDAY

No. 1 LSU (minus 7½) vs. No. 4 Georgia, SEC championship

The best offense in the SEC (LSU) vs. the best defense (Georgia) ... LSU 35-24.

No. 2 Ohio State (minus 16) vs. No. 10 Wisconsin, Big Ten championship

Which Buckeye will head to New York City as a Heisman Trophy finalist? Or Buckeyes? ... OHIO STATE 38-17.

No. 3 Clemson (minus 28) vs. No. 22 Virginia, ACC championship

Tigers come in having won seven straight by at least 31 points ... CLEMSON 45-14.

No. 6 Oklahoma (minus 8) vs. No. 8 Baylor, Big 12 championship

Sooners looking for their fifth straight Big 12 title ... BAYLOR 31-28.

No. 16 Memphis (minus 8½) vs. No. 21 Cincinnati, AAC championship

Tigers go for the sweep against the Bearcats after beating them last week ... MEMPHIS 38-28.

No. 19 Boise State (minus 13½) vs. Hawaii, MWC championship

Broncos looking for third title game victory in fourth appearance ... BOISE STATE 42-24.

Louisiana-Lafayette (plus 6½) at No. 20 Appalachian State, Sun Belt championship

Rematch of last season's first Sun Belt title game ... LOUISIANA 24-23.

UAB (plus 7½) at Florida Atlantic, Conference USA championship

Owls trying to make it two C-USA titles in three seasons under coach Lane Kiffin ... FAU 34-21.

Miami (Ohio) (plus 6½) vs. Central Michigan, MAC championship

Former Florida coach Jim McElwain has taken Central Michigan from 1-11 last year to a victory away from its first MAC title since 2009 ... CENTRAL MICHIGAN 33-24.

Last week: 21-3 straight; 10-14 against the spread.

Season: 249-65 straight; 172-130-9 against the spread.

Upset specials: 3-11 (straight up).

Best bets: 6-6-1 (against the spread).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Passionate Schiano takes over Rutgers football for 2nd time

BY TOM CANAVAN

AP Sports Writer

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) — Five minutes after being introduced as the Rutgers football coach for a second time, Greg Schiano gave a clear indication why he might be the man to make the Scarlet Knights competitive in the Big Ten Conference.

With his litany of thank-yous out of the way, Schiano stood in front of a news conference packed with media and supporters on Wednesday and started speaking from the heart. His voice got louder and there was an unmistakable passion present.

It was impressive, the type of talk capable of swaying young players who might be interested in turning around a Rutgers program that has won seven games in the past three seasons, and has lost 21 consecutive conference games.

Schiano, whose eight-year, \$32 million contract was approved by the university's board of governors on Tuesday, would not put a timetable on transforming a program that has struggled since joining the Big Ten in 2014.

It took him five years to turn around Rutgers when he got the job the first time in 2001, and that was in the Big East Conference.

This is the Big Ten with the likes of Ohio State, Wisconsin, Penn State and Michigan, schools that seem to get better every season.

"Again, we're chasing some big dudes," Schiano

said. "No, we're passing, that's what we've got to do. We ain't chasing. We're passing and that's got to happen, and it's going to take every single one of us to do it. But the real beauty of this thing, people in New Jersey know how to work. They are not afraid of work. Not afraid to get after it. But we collectively showed what can happen. That's got to be our leaping-off point. We can't do this because it's just starting. Here we go."

A New Jersey native, Schiano went 68-67 at Rutgers from 2001-11 and turned the Scarlet Knights into consistent winners. They went to six bowl games in his final seven seasons. He left to become the head coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers of the NFL, but he struggled to adapt his controlling approach to the professional ranks. He was fired after posting an 11-21 record in two seasons, including 4-12 his second year.

Schiano resurfaced in 2016 when then-Ohio State coach Urban Meyer hired him as defensive coordinator. In 2017, Schiano seemed to be in line to get the top job at Tennessee. But the deal fell apart after widespread backlash that included a protest on campus and complaints on social media from fans, state lawmakers and gubernatorial candidates over whether Schiano might have been aware of Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse of children at Penn State when he was an assistant coach.

Schiano said he had no

knowledge of what was happening at the time.

Schiano returns to a team coming off a 2-10 record and its second straight winless season in the conference.

He met with the current team on Monday and has been talking to players who had recently put their names in the transfer portal. He needs to hire a staff, although he said interim coach Nunzio Campanile, who took over after Chris Ash was fired in late September, will remain on his staff next season.

Schiano also will have to focus on recruiting. The next day for early signings is Dec. 18.

The news conference capped a 10-day span that saw talks between Schiano and Rutgers break off before Thanksgiving and pick up again after an outcry from fans and boosters. The final deal got done in a matter of days, with a memorandum of agreement signed on Saturday.

During the lull, Schiano and his wife, Christy, took a trip back to the campus and it helped.

"When it looked like it might be going off the rails, I'm not going to lie, I was very disappointed, very disappointed and even more so after we took that little secret trip and saw how beautiful the place has really become," he said.

The two sides realized they wanted each other and the deal that will give Schiano a \$4 million annual salary got done.

Athletic director Pat Hobbs said he expects to

have renderings for a new football operations center completed in the next month.

Hobbs said his goal was to bring back Schiano, although there were bumps in the negotiations.

"He will rebuild this program to the standard of excellence he set when he was here," said Hobbs, who took the bulk of the criticism after the talks broke down. "He will exceed those past successes and we will all celebrate together."

Outgoing Rutgers President Robert Barchi called the hiring a quantum step forward for the program.

"Everything we do is built on what we've done before, but every once in a while you take a step that's more than just incremental," said Barchi, who is retiring after the academic year. "You take a step that makes a statement. You take a step that is going somewhere much further than where we have been and this marks one of those occasions. I reckon this to be one of the biggest."

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy said Schiano is the right person to reignite pride in the Scarlet Knights Football, recalling that 19 years ago Schiano took the job and said: It's time.

"Once again, faced with the challenge to turn around a football program and reignite Scarlet Knight pride, it's time," Murphy said. "A new era of Rutgers football and a new era of national prominence for Rutgers begins today."

MLB

Testing, no suspensions for opioids considered likely in MLB

BY STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

MIAMI — Players who test positive for opioids would enter treatment and not be suspended under the change to Major League Baseball's drug agreement being negotiated by management and the players' association, according to union head Tony Clark.

Talks to add testing for opioids began following the death this year of Los Angeles Angels pitcher Tyler Skaggs. Players have been tested for performance-enhancing substances since 2004 and for banned stimulants since 2006.

"We believe wholeheartedly, as we always have, that the treatment option and not discipline is the best route to go," Clark said Wednesday as the union's

executive board finished its annual meeting.

The union and MLB are in agreement that treatment would be warranted for opioids and not discipline, Clark said. He added the addition to the drug agreement likely be made this offseason.

"I'm pretty confident that's where we're going," Clark said.

Skaggs was found dead in his hotel room in the Dallas area July 1 before the start of a series against the Texas Rangers. A medical examiner's office said the 27-year-old died after choking on his vomit with a toxic mix of alcohol and the painkillers fentanyl and oxycodone in his body.

Clark spoke after the three days of union meet-

ings, with all 30 player representatives in attendance. Elvis Andrus of the Texas Rangers became the first Venezuelan to be elected to the executive subcommittee.

The focus was on preparations for collective bargaining, which has begun well in advance of the current deal's expiration in December 2021.

"We spent a lot of time talking about industry economics and player markets," Clark said. "We're nowhere near a point of proposals and formal engagement."

The union discussed pace of play and isn't enthusiastic about MLB's proposal to require a three-batter minimum for pitchers next season. MLB has the right to change the rule for 2020

even without the union's agreement.

The union has been resistant to such changes to speed up play.

"We've seen a game that has changed dramatically over the last four or five years, and I don't know that there's a clear answer yet on what type of game we want to have," Clark said. "Guys are very concerned about the constant discussions about rule changes. If we want to make extraordinary changes, call it something else. Don't call it baseball."

Clark said the union is receptive to reducing the length of breaks between innings to 1 minute, 55 seconds during the regular season, another change management has the right to make for 2020.

NFL

Cowboys at Bears: Two .500 teams mired in disappointment

BY BARRY WILNER

AP Pro Football Writer

It's difficult to determine which 6-6 team has flopped more this season, the Cowboys or Bears.

Maybe Thursday night's matchup at Soldier Field will give us a clue.

Dallas, at least, is in position to make the playoffs, albeit as the winner of the weak NFC East. With Philadelphia ravaged by injuries and also underachieving, the Cowboys have a one-game lead.

Chicago, however, is stuck behind NFC North leader Green Bay (9-3) and Minnesota (8-4), and needs a massive turnaround on offense to have any shot at the postseason.

Remember, both teams won their divisions last year.

The Cowboys have lost three of their past four games.

"Talk is cheap right? We've talked a lot," quarterback Dak Prescott says. "We've talked a bunch and got ourselves right to where we are. In a moment like this I say hell with the talking and I'm going to do more. I'm going to work harder, and if you're a young guy looking for somebody to figure it out, how to do it, yeah, look at me and some of these other guys. Because that's exactly what we're doing — putting our head down focusing and doubling down on ourselves."

We're hardly ready to double down on Dallas, No. 14 in the AP Pro32. The Cowboys are 3-point favorites over No. 16 Chicago.

COWBOYS, 17-16
KNOCKOUT POOL: Green Bay imported some snow to New Jersey and did right by us. This time we venture to the Lone Star state for the TEXANS.

No. 30 Detroit (plus 13) at No. 10 Minnesota

Vikings are super annoyed at losing tight games to good teams. Lions aren't good.

BEST BET: VIKINGS, 33-10

No. 11 Tennessee (minus 3) at No. 17 Oakland

Last shot for Raiders to do something special before heading to Sin City.

UPSET SPECIAL: RAIDERS, 27-23

No. 6 (tie) Kansas City (plus 3 1-2) at No. 5 New England

If Patriots truly are in trouble, they will lose this one.

PATRIOTS, 10-17

No. 1 Baltimore (minus 6) at No. 9 Buffalo

Don't underestimate Bills, who can stamp themselves as big-timers here.

RAVENS: 23-21

No. 2 Seattle (minus 1) at No. 12 Los Angeles Rams

Seahawks will stamp themselves as big-timers with this victory.

SEAHAWKS, 23-21

No. 3 San Francisco (plus 2 1-2) at No. 4 New Orleans

Tough schedule could plummet Niners from unbeaten to sixth seed.

SAINTS, 21-16

No. 13 Pittsburgh (minus 2) at No. 24 (tie) Arizona

Mike Tomlin is doing some of his best coaching work.

STEELERS, 20-16

No. 29 Washington (plus 13) at No. 6 (tie) Green Bay

Don't be fooled by Washington's consecutive wins. Packers won't be.

PACKERS, 30-13

No. 20 Carolina (plus 3) at No. 28 Atlanta

Ron Rivera fired, Dan Quinn on hot seat. Go with ...

FALCONS, 26-17

No. 26 Miami (plus 5 1-2) at No. 27 New York Jets

FitzMagic returns to Meadowlands. Wonder if he'll be welcomed.

JETS, 22-20

No. 31 New York Giants (plus 9) at No. 18 Philadelphia (Monday night)

Eli's coming back? Won't matter, though Eagles are struggling.

EAGLES, 30-16

No. 23 Denver (plus 9) at No. 8 Houston

Could be trap game for Houston between Patriots and Titans.

TEXANS, 20-18

No. 32 Cincinnati (plus 9) at No. 21 Cleveland

Cleveland already fell into trap of overconfidence (and revenge).

BROWNS, 29-24

No. 15 Indianapolis (plus 3) at No. 19 Tampa Bay

Two very confounding squads. Colts desperately need this one.

COLTS, 26-23

No. 22 Los Angeles Chargers (minus 3) at No. 24 (tie) Jacksonville

Chargers can't get out of their own way, Jags have discord.

JAGUARS, 17-16

2019 RECORD:

Last Week: 10-6 against spread, 8-8 straight up.

Season Totals: 103-86-2 against spread, 116-73-1 straight up.

Best Bet: 10-3 against spread, 11-2 straight up.

Upset special: 7-6 against spread, 7-6 straight up.

Girlfriend closely attached to son is distant to family

DEAR ABBY: One of my sons is dating a young woman who seems to care deeply for him, but is very cool and distant to our family. He goes to nearly all of her family's events, but she seldom comes to any of ours.

Dear Abby



She has been to one birthday get-together at a restaurant, a wedding and a play where I bought the tickets for her, myself and all my daughters-in-law. She has been invited to family dinners at one or another of our homes, Christmas celebrations, Thanksgivings, birthdays – you name it – but has not come to any of them. My husband and I hand-make our gifts to her, which require a lot of time and effort. Last year, she sent us each a gift for Christmas.

They have been dating for several years. When they are apart, she texts him constantly. I am confused and troubled by her indifference to us. We have been more than welcoming to her. Is there anything I or we could do to help her warm up to us? – Flummoxed Mom In The South

DEAR FLUMMOXED: Have you talked with your son about this? If not, you should. You are already doing everything you can, so prepare to batten down the hatches. If your son eventually marries this insecure young woman, she will continue isolating him from his family and absorb him into her own. When the grandchildren come, they will spend the majority of their time with her family and not yours.

It is harsh, but it's the truth. Unless your son is strong enough to put his foot down, it's exactly what will happen. You have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: I am a naturally thin young woman. Oftentimes, especially when I'm working in offices with older women, my co-workers comment on their dissatisfaction with their weight and how they wish their body could be more like mine.

To be honest, I don't equate thinness with beauty or fat with ugliness. But when I try to tell these women I think they are beautiful as they are, it's received with suspicion, as if they think I don't mean what I say. How can I respond to those who are unhappy with their weight without sounding insincere? I don't want to hurt anybody's feelings. – Thin In Florida

DEAR THIN: When your co-workers compliment you about your figure, smile and say thank you. Period. If they express dissatisfaction with their appearance, do not allow yourself to be drawn into the conversation. You can't alleviate their insecurities; they haven't believed you when you tried. Because the subject makes you uncomfortable, try changing the topic to another one.

DEAR ABBY: Is there a place where I can donate puzzles? I always make sure all the pieces are there. I put them in a zip bag inside a taped box so anyone who gets them would be getting something that's as good as new. I have a whole closet full, and I need to find a place to donate them. They are too nice to throw away. – Wanting To Share In Washington

DEAR WANTING: I am sure that if you call around you will discover that senior centers, hospitals, nursing homes, libraries, churches, schools and rehabilitation facilities could put those puzzles to good use. It's worth a try.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Have a nightmare
- 6 Applaud
- 10 Weight units
- 12 Works hard
- 14 Perseus' foe
- 15 Trace element in salt
- 16 Leather strips
- 18 Insect killer
- 19 You, formerly
- 21 Beg pardon!
- 23 Kind of humor
- 24 "Cogito ergo —"
- 26 Rani's spouse
- 29 Grain crop
- 30 Jiffy
- 32 Long-handled tool
- 34 Lullaby
- 36 9-digit ID
- 37 Teeth-chattering sound
- 38 Billionth, in combos

40 Raggedy doll

- 42 Glamorous wrap
- 43 Kind of chop
- 45 Vitality
- 47 Take a mate
- 50 Elbowroom
- 52 Singer Frankie —
- 54 Pinball palace
- 58 Keep safe
- 59 Hamster's cousin
- 60 Fawn's parent
- 61 Harsh-sounding

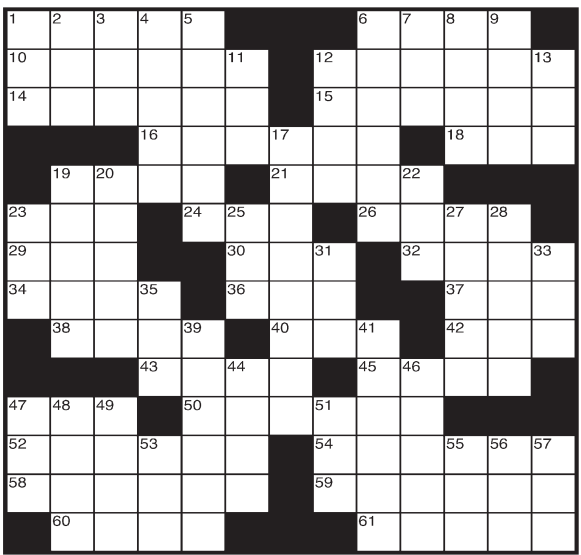
DOWN

- 1 Monastic title
- 2 Regret deeply
- 3 Result
- 4 Sharp, as hearing
- 5 Nets
- 6 Less distant
- 7 Highland youth
- 8 Grasping youth
- 9 Remain undecided

Answer to Previous Puzzle



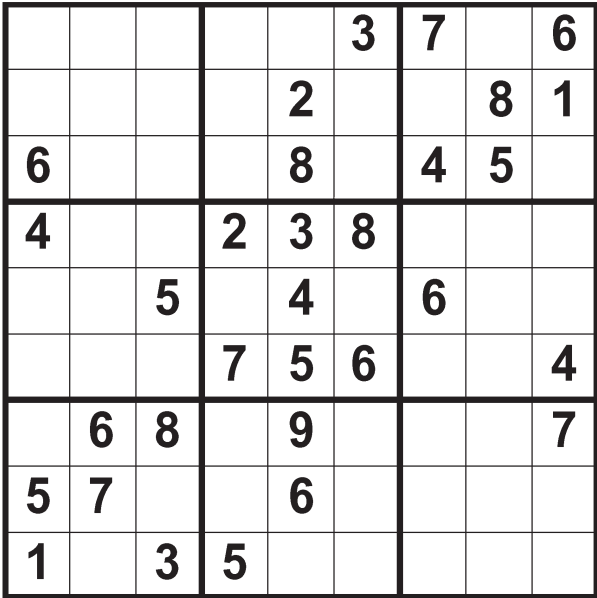
- 11 — Paulo
- 12 Show relief
- 13 TV receiver
- 17 Son, often
- 19 Shop for clothes (2 wds.)
- 20 Scavenging animal
- 22 Scratch or dent
- 23 JAMA readers
- 25 — Nimitz
- 27 "Star Wars" gangster
- 28 Ohio city
- 31 Blitzer's channel
- 33 Historical period
- 35 Greenspan stat
- 39 Kind of tea
- 41 Less remote
- 44 Split in two
- 46 Brand of spandex
- 47 Fat cat's bundle
- 48 Nights before
- 49 Foolish
- 51 Canine pals do it
- 53 Grassy field
- 55 Tummy muscles
- 56 Scoop
- 57 English cathedral city



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SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆



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How to play:

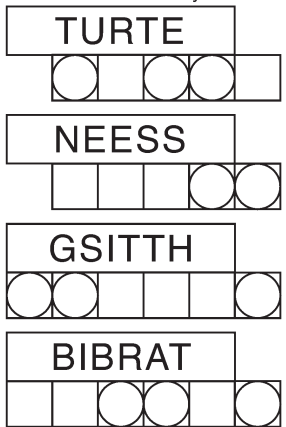
Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

9	5	2	1	4	8	7	6	3
6	1	7	3	5	9	2	4	8
4	3	8	2	6	7	9	1	5
1	6	9	8	7	2	5	3	4
7	8	5	4	9	3	1	2	6
2	4	3	6	1	5	8	7	9
8	7	6	9	2	4	3	5	1
3	2	4	5	8	1	6	9	7
5	9	1	7	3	6	4	8	2

JUMBLE

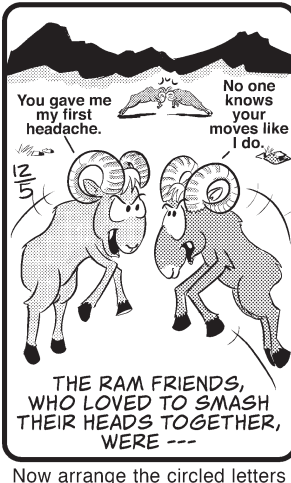
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGAIN WINCH RIDDLE THWART Answer: Regarding the invention of latex surgical gloves in 1894, William Halstead — HAD A HAND IN IT

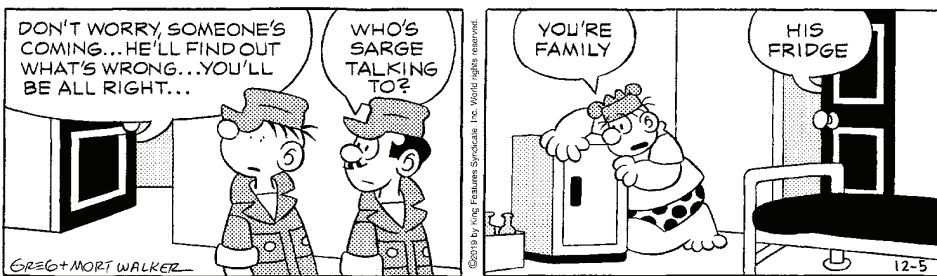
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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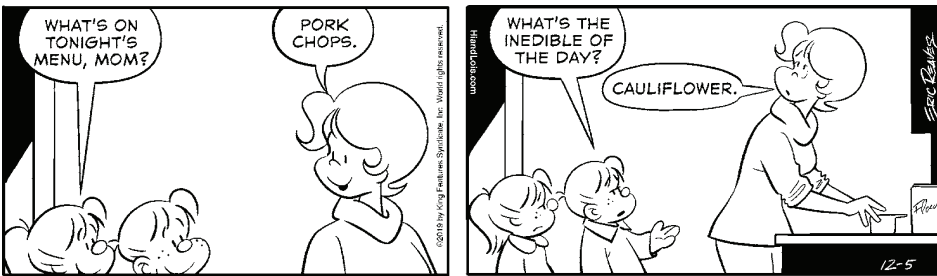
BEETLE BAILEY



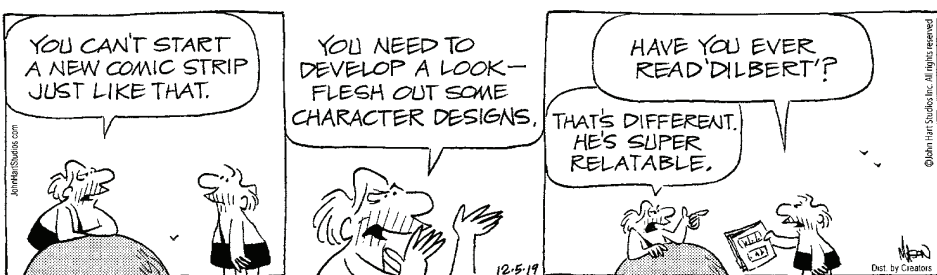
BLONDIE



HI & LOIS



BC



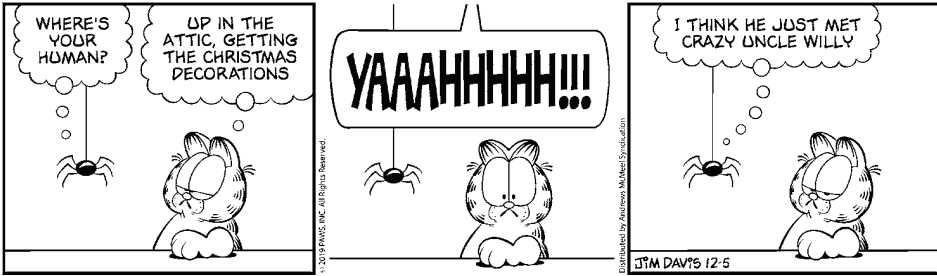
WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



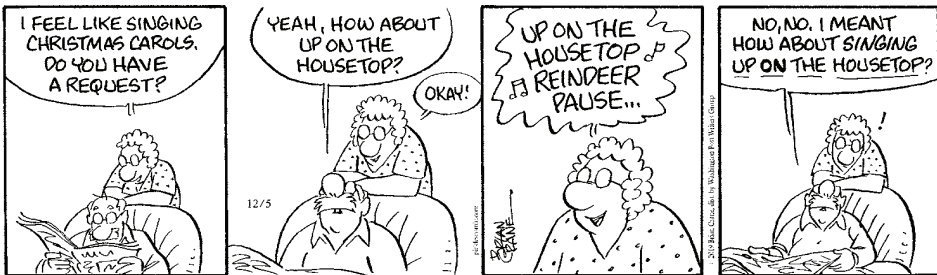
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



Scripture designates Michael as an archangel

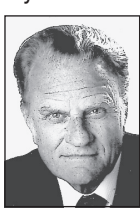
From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

Q: Why does the Bible refer to angels and then arch-angels, and are they mentioned by name? -- A.W.

A: Scripture designates Michael as an archangel (Jude 9) and is the only archangel mentioned by name. The prefix "arch" suggests a chief, principal, or great angel. Thus, Michael is an angel above other angels, a type of "administrator" of God for judgment.

In the Old Testament, Michael seems to be identified primarily with Israel as a nation. Thus, God speaks of Michael as prince of His chosen people (Daniel 12:1). In Revelation 12, he is spoken of as God's messenger of law and judgment, leading the armies that battle Satan.

Billy Graham My Answer



Michael, with the angels, will be locked in the titanic struggle of the universe at the last conflict of the age, which will mark the defeat of Satan and all forces of darkness. The Bible tells us that Michael will be victorious in the battle. Hell will tremble; Heaven will rejoice and celebrate!

Michael, the archangel, will shout as he accompanies Jesus at His second coming. Not only does he proclaim the matchless and exciting news that Jesus Christ returns, but he speaks the word of life to all who

are dead in Christ and who await their resurrection. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel ... and the dead in Christ shall rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, KJV).

As glorious as the angelic and heavenly beings are, they become dim beside the inexpressible glory resident of our heavenly Lamb, the Lord of glory, to whom all powers in heaven and on earth bow in holy worship and breathless adoration. Do not miss the joy of the Gospel truth.

CELEBRITY CIPHER by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

"B GABPP RXPBXLX BK GVKAV, ACX XVGAXS REKKI, ACX AWWAC ZVBSI VKF ASEX PWLX. FWK'A XLXK ASI AW AXPP UX FBZZXSXKA." — FWPPI DVSAWK

Previous Solution: "Not only do I know how to milk a cow, but I know how to herd a bunch of cows, too!" — Martina McBride TODAY'S CLUE: W siñbe n

Half-North Korean, half-Chinese kids struggle in South Korea

BY HYUNG-JIN KIM
Associated Press

UIJEONGBU, South Korea — Song Hong Ryon looks like any other young woman in South Korea. But three years after her arrival from China, the half-North Korean, half-Chinese 19-year-old has made only two South Korean-born friends and says she's often been hurt by little things, like when people ask if she's from China because of her accent.

"I've agonized about it a lot by myself," she said.

Song's mother fled North Korea in the late 1990s in search of food and work in China, like tens of thousands of other North Korean women did to avoid a famine at home. Many women ended up being sold to poor Chinese farmers as brides, before fleeing again and moving to South Korea, which considers the North part of its territory and therefore embraces North Korean refugees.

Many of the children of these marriages, if they're able to reunite with their mothers in the South, are alienated and frustrated as they struggle to navigate a strange culture, cut off from friends and many of their relatives.

To tell their little-known stories, The Associated Press talked to three of the children, two of their North Korean mothers and an array of school teachers, experts and government officials.

Many of the North Korean mothers lived in China in constant fear of being captured and repatriated to the North, where they could face torture and lengthy detention. When they made the risky trip to South Korea, they often left their children behind in China.

The lucky ones, after getting jobs and saving money in South Korea, arranged for their children and husbands to travel to the country. But some children were abandoned, or their fathers refused to leave their hometowns and move to a place where they had no relatives or friends.

Family reunions, if they happen at all, often take years, meaning many half-

Chinese, half-North Korean children must fend for themselves during their adolescent years.

Song said she was 10 when her mother left their home in the northeastern Chinese city of Yanji in 2010. A year later, her father also went to South Korea, leaving her with her grandparents.

"When my mom left, I didn't cry. But when my dad left, I cried a lot," Song said. "I think it was because I felt I was truly alone then."

She only reunited with her parents in 2016 in South Korea after a six-year separation. Last December, her mother died of lung cancer.

"I came to blame God," said Song, a devout Christian. "I asked why this had to happen to me."

In South Korea, children like Song often face crises in identity, a language barrier, public indifference and poor government assistance. Many of them feel like outsiders and get left behind academically and socially. Some return to China, parting again with their North Korean mothers.

They're often confused about whether they're Chinese, South Korean or North Korean refugees. Because neither parent is originally from South Korea, they don't have help assimilating into the country's brutally competitive and fast-paced society.

"Combined with South Korea's social bias against them and their own distorted views about (the South Koreans around them), they mostly give up on opportunities to develop themselves, and this eats away at them fulfilling their potential," said Kim Doo Yeon, the principal of the alternative Great Vision School in Uijeongbu, just north of Seoul, where Song was enrolled for two years.

Another half-Chinese, half-North Korean young woman — who wished to be identified only by her family name, Choe, because she worries that media publicity could damage her life in South Korea — came to Seoul from China last year to reunite with her North Korean refugee mother.

The 20-year-old speaks

only a little Korean and has no South Korean friends. She has yet to travel alone beyond Seoul and often spends time chatting online with her friends back in China.

Her mother fled their home in Dunhua city in northeastern China in early 2017 after seeing a fellow North Korean woman in their village being arrested and sent back to North Korea.

"I was very saddened," the daughter said through tears about her separation with her mother.

Her mother, who asked to be identified as Choe H.Y. because of similar privacy issues, said brokers lured her to cross the border into China with the promise of a job before selling her to her husband for \$710 in 1998.

Song said her mother was also almost sold to a stranger before she ran away and met her father.

Upon arrival in South Korea, these children are given citizenship because their mothers are now South Korean nationals. But because they don't have a direct link to North Korea, they cannot legally receive some other special favors that North Korea-born refugees enjoy.

Those missed benefits include the right to bypass the highly competitive national university entrance exam, get a college tuition waiver and, for men, choose whether to perform two years of mandatory military service.

Choe said her brother is still in China because of worries that he'll have to serve in the military. Choe wants to improve her Korean and go to a South Korean university, which means she must compete with South Korean students in the university entrance exam.

But language is a problem. "If I try to go deeper in our conversation in Korean, she won't understand, so I become impatient and start speaking Chinese to her," said Choe H.Y.

The fact that these children's mothers mostly began slipping into China about 20 years ago suggests their children are now reaching adulthood and that their plight could soon become a bigger social issue in South Korea.

According to the South Korean Education Ministry, about 1,550 such children were enrolled in primary, middle and high schools in South Korea as of April this year, compared with about 980 North Korea-born students. The true number is likely higher.

In recent years, the government has tried to help by providing \$3,390 to their families and dispatching more bilingual instructors to schools. In May, an opposition lawmaker proposed providing China-born North Korean children with the same assistance given to North Korea-born refugees.

Shim Yang-sup, principal of the Seoul-based alternative South-North Love School, said the children should be supported because they represent an untapped resource, with the ability to often speak two languages and navigate both Korean and Chinese cultures.

Kim Hyun-seung, 20, from Tianjin, China, arrived in South Korea three years ago to reunite with his mother, who came six years earlier. Kim's 52-year-old mother, Kim So-yeon, described him as "a great, loyal son," who tried not to talk much about his suffering and once cooked special foods for her on her birthday.

Tall and slim, Kim said he wouldn't mind serving in the South Korean military and dreams of being a chef in a French restaurant.

But he doesn't want a serious girlfriend out of fear they'd "become a couple like my father and mother that gives pain to their child, fails to live together and worries about many things."

Song's bilingual ability helped her receive special admission to a university near Seoul. Her first semester starts in March, and she's excited and nervous about meeting her mostly South Korea-born classmates.

"I'm seeing things positively ... because even if I complain about some difficulties that I have, they aren't resolved," she said. "I've sometimes gotten sick after brooding alone. As time goes by, I'm missing my mom more than ever."

Iran says it killed 'rioters' in deadliest unrest in decades

BY JON GAMBRELL
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iran acknowledged for the first time Tuesday that its security forces shot and killed protesters across the country to put down demonstrations last month over the sharply spiking price of gasoline, the deadliest unrest to hit the country since the turmoil of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

A report by Iranian state television sought to portray those killed as "rioters" or foreign-backed insurgents who threatened military posts, oil tanks and the public. It acknowledged that the violence also killed passers-by, security forces and peaceful protesters without assigning blame.

However, online videos of demonstrations purport to show security forces firing machine guns and rifles at crowds. Amnesty International believes the unrest beginning in mid-November and crackdown that followed killed at least 208 people. An Iranian judiciary official disputed the toll Tuesday as "sheer lies," without offering any evidence to support his position.

The demonstrations show the widespread economic discontent gripping Iran since May 2018, when President Donald Trump imposed crushing sanctions after unilaterally withdrawing the United States from the nuclear deal that Tehran struck with world powers. Trump himself, speaking to journalists before a NATO summit in London, claimed without evidence Iran has killed "thousands."

The demonstrations followed months of attacks across the Middle East that the U.S. blames on Tehran. Meanwhile, Iran has begun breaking the limits of the nuclear deal in hopes of pressuring Europe into finding a way for Tehran to sell its crude oil abroad despite the American sanctions.

The state TV report alleged that some of those killed were "rioters who have attacked sensitive or military centers with firearms or knives or have taken hostages in some areas." Some sought to access arsenals inside the police and military posts, the report said.

In one case, the report said security forces confronted a separatist group armed with "semi-heavy weapons" in the city of Mahshahr in Iran's southwestern Khuzestan province.

The Arab population of the surrounding oil-rich province long has complained of discrimination by Iran's central government, and insurgent groups have attacked oil pipelines there. Iran blamed both area separatists and the Islamic State group for an attack on a military parade in the region in September 2018 that killed at least 25 people.

Online video purportedly from the area showed peaceful protests, as well as clashes between demonstrators and security forces, although the protesters appeared to be armed largely with rocks and debris.

"The marshes you see behind me and on the right are where hostile groups were hiding and shooting at the police, but praise to Allah, the armed forces deftly and vigilantly came to the field and foiled their plots," Mahshahr police chief Col. Reza Papi said in the report.

Separately, a detainee shot and killed a police officer in the province Tuesday, state TV said, without elaborating.

State TV also acknowledged that security forces confronted "rioters" during the protests in Tehran, as well as in the cities of Shiraz and Sirjan. It also mentioned the Tehran suburb of Shahriar, where Amnesty on Monday said there had been "dozens of deaths." It described the suburb as likely one of the areas with the highest death toll in the unrest. Shahriar has seen heavy protests.

Amnesty offered no breakdown for the deaths elsewhere in the country, although it said "the real figure is likely to be higher."

Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili disputed Amnesty's death toll.

"I bluntly say that numbers and figures given by hostile groups are sheer lies," he told reporters. "Real statistics are seriously different from what they announce, and numbers are far less than what they claim."

However, Esmaili — like every other Iranian official since the crackdown — offered no evidence to support his claim, nor did he give any information on casualties. A U.N. agency also has said it fears the unrest may have killed "a significant number of people."

He also said the "majority of the detainees" from the protests had been released, without offering any numbers. One lawmaker previously said he thought over 7,000 people had been arrested.

The death toll of at least 208 makes it the bloodiest unrest in Iran since the time of the Islamic Revolution. The 2009 Green Movement protests that followed a disputed presidential election drew millions to the streets but saw far less killing.

The demonstrations began Nov. 15 after the government raised minimum gasoline prices by 50% to 15,000 Iranian rials per liter. That's 12 cents a liter, or about 50 cents a gallon. After a monthly 60-liter quota, it costs 30,000 rials a liter. That's nearly 24 cents a liter or 90 cents a gallon. An average gallon of regular gas in the U.S. costs \$2.58 by comparison, according to AAA.

Cheap gasoline is practically considered a birthright in Iran, home to the world's fourth-largest crude oil reserves despite decades of economic woes. That disparity, especially given its oil wealth, fueled the anger felt by demonstrators.

Iranians have seen their savings chewed away by the rial's collapse from 32,000 to \$1 at the time of the 2015 nuclear accord to 127,000 to \$1 today under the renewed U.S. sanctions. The cost of daily staples also has risen.

On Tuesday, Trump kept up the pressure, alleging without evidence that Iran was "killing perhaps thousands and thousands of people right now as we speak." The protests largely have subsided, and no group has offered estimates that high.

"I think it's a terrible thing and I think the world has to be watching," Trump said.

Sitting beside French President Emmanuel Macron later, Trump told journalists that Iran is having "massive riots and protests all over the country."

Asked if the U.S. supported the protesters, Trump said: "I don't want to comment on that, but the answer is no." He later clarified he meant America offered them no financial support, though it backed their aspirations.

In Tehran, President Hassan Rouhani met with Yusuf bin Alawi, Oman's minister responsible for foreign affairs. Alawi met U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo last week in Washington. Oman, a sultanate on the eastern edge of the Arabian Peninsula, has served as an interlocutor between Iran and the U.S. in the past.

Rouhani said the U.S. offers only slogans in its speeches that have led nowhere, while trying to cut deals in private that go against them.

Rouhani may end up traveling to Tokyo for a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to seek a way to save the nuclear deal, the Kyodo news agency reported, citing an anonymous official. Abe traveled to Iran in June but received a lecture from Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on how Trump couldn't be trusted. During that meeting, a suspected Iranian limpet mine attack damaged a Japanese oil tanker.

629 Pakistani girls sold as brides to China

BY KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — Page after page, the names stack up: 629 girls and women from across Pakistan who were sold as brides to Chinese men and taken to China. The list, obtained by The Associated Press, was compiled by Pakistani investigators determined to break up trafficking networks exploiting the country's poor and vulnerable.

The list gives the most concrete figure yet for the number of women caught up in the trafficking schemes since 2018.

But since the time it was put together in June, investigators' aggressive drive against the networks has largely ground to a halt. Officials with knowledge of the investigations say that is because of pressure from government officials fearful of hurting Pakistan's lucrative ties to Beijing.

The biggest case against traffickers has fallen apart. In October, a court in Faisalabad acquitted 31 Chinese nationals charged in connection with trafficking. Several of the women who had initially been interviewed by police refused to testify because they were either threatened or bribed into silence, according to a court official and a police investigator familiar with the case. The two spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared retribution for speaking out.

At the same time, the government has sought to curtail investigations, putting "immense pressure" on officials from the Federal Investigation Agency pursuing trafficking networks, said Saleem Iqbal, a Christian activist who has helped parents rescue several young girls from China and prevented

others from being sent there.

"Some (FIA officials) were even transferred," Iqbal said in an interview. "When we talk to Pakistani rulers, they don't pay any attention."

Asked about the complaints, Pakistan's interior and foreign ministries refused to comment.

Several senior officials familiar with the events said investigations into trafficking have slowed, the investigators are frustrated, and Pakistani media have been pushed to curb their reporting on trafficking. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals.

"No one is doing anything to help these girls," one of the officials said. "The whole racket is continuing, and it is growing. Why? Because they know they can get away with it. The authorities won't follow through, everyone is being pressured to not investigate. Trafficking is increasing now."

He said he was speaking out "because I have to live with myself. Where is our humanity?"

China's Foreign Ministry said it was unaware of the list.

"The two governments of China and Pakistan support the formation of happy families between their people on a voluntary basis in keeping with laws and regulations, while at the same time having zero tolerance for and resolutely fighting against any person engaging in illegal cross-border marriage behavior," the ministry said in a statement faxed Monday to AP's Beijing bureau.

An AP investigation earlier this year revealed how Pakistan's Christian minority has become a new target of brokers who pay impoverished parents to marry

off their daughters, some of them teenagers, to Chinese husbands who return with them to their homeland. Many of the brides are then isolated and abused or forced into prostitution in China, often contacting home and pleading to be brought back. The AP spoke to police and court officials and more than a dozen brides — some of whom made it back to Pakistan, others who remained trapped in China — as well as remorseful parents, neighbors, relatives and human rights workers.

Christians are targeted because they are one of the poorest communities in Muslim-majority Pakistan. The trafficking rings are made up of Chinese and Pakistani middlemen and include Christian ministers, mostly from small evangelical churches, who get bribes to urge their flock to sell their daughters. Investigators have also turned up at least one Muslim cleric running a marriage bureau from his madrassa, or religious school.

Investigators put together the list of 629 women from Pakistan's integrated border management system, which digitally records travel documents at the country's airports. The information includes the brides' national identity numbers, their Chinese husbands' names and the dates of their marriages.

All but a handful of the marriages took place in 2018 and up to April 2019. One of the senior officials said it was believed all 629 were sold to grooms by their families.

It is not known how many more women and girls were trafficked since the list was put together. But the official said, "the lucrative trade continues." He spoke to the AP in an interview conducted

hundreds of kilometers from his place of work to protect his identity. "The Chinese and Pakistani brokers make between \$25,000 and \$65,000 from the groom, but only about \$1,500, is given to the family," he said.

The official, with years of experience studying human trafficking in Pakistan, said many of the women who spoke to investigators told of forced fertility treatments, physical and sexual abuse and, in some cases, forced prostitution. Although no evidence has emerged, at least one investigation report contains allegations of organs being harvested from some of the women sent to China.

In September, Pakistan's investigation agency sent a report it labeled "fake Chinese marriages cases" to Prime Minister Imran Khan. The report, a copy of which was attained by the AP, provided details of cases registered against 52 Chinese nationals and 20 of their Pakistani associates in two cities in eastern Punjab province — Faisalabad, Lahore — as well as in the capital Islamabad. The Chinese suspects included the 31 later acquitted in court.

The report said police discovered two illegal marriage bureaus in Lahore, including one operated from an Islamic center and madrassa — the first known report of poor Muslims also being targeted by brokers. The Muslim cleric involved fled police.

After the acquittals, there are other cases before the courts involving arrested Pakistani and at least another 21 Chinese suspects, according to the report sent to the prime minister in September. But the Chinese defendants in the cases were all granted bail and left the country, say activists and a court official.

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